1990-91 Montana Winter Guide

Montana

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IT'S HARD TO SOAR IF YOU DON'T LEAVE THE FLOCK.

Tired of the trendy? Crazy from the crowds? Ready to spread your wings? Maybe Montana is the place you've been looking for.

If you're tired of paying for some indefinable add-on called ambiance, then come to the northern Rockies. We'll define it Montana-style and won't even charge you for it. Here, the best things in life are free: powder perfect snow, bright blue sky, watchable wildlife, millions of acres of pristine forest, no lift lines, no traffic jams, no hassles.

Here, you will find two of the nation's favorite national parks—Glacier and Yellowstone—all dressed up for winter visitors. Cross country skiers have Glacier almost exclusively to themselves in winter; you'll share the trails with moose and deer, the views with bighorn sheep. In Yellowstone, wintering wildlife steal the show as elk and bison graze the geyser basins and geese and swans cruise steamy waterways. Guided snowcoach tours, naturalist-guided photo safaris, ski tours and hundreds of miles of separate snowmobile and ski trails allow privileged views of Old Faithful, the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, the geyser basins and the dazzling white beauty of Yellowstone in winter.

G. Wiltsie photo

In between Glacier and Yellowstone are 14 destination and day use areas, many located on or adjacent to national forests. Lodging ranges from slopeside condominiums to snug bed and breakfast inns and hot spring resorts. Restaurants vary from ranch-style to gourmet. Affordable packages come in all shapes and sizes to fit your needs and your pocketbook. And a variety of special programs for kids will make their Montana ski

J. Arthur photo

Mt. Cannon, Glacier National Park / W. Mumford photo

vacation as memorable as yours. In Montana, you can even rent a mountain for your group!

Montana's cross country ski resorts are one-of-a-kind destinations that do winter right with specialties like guided wilderness tours, on-the-trail buffet lunches, mineral hot springs pools and moonlight sleigh rides. There are expertly groomed trails for traditional track skiers and skaters and unlimited backcountry touring. You'll find instruction for beginners and challenges for experts. Montana is, after all, the year-after-year choice of the U.S. Nordic and Biathlon teams for early winter training.

Winter is a peak season in Montana and we celebrate it with world-class events like national and international speed skating races at the U.S. High Altitude Sports Center in Butte, U.S. Nordic and Biathlon Team competition in West Yellowstone, the National Gelande Jump Championship at Montana Snowbowl and the longest sled dog race (500 miles!) in the lower 48 states. Ongoing celebrations include torchlight parades, winter and spring carnivals, nordic and downhill races and just-for-fun events like snowboard races, bikini contests, skolf tournaments and snow dances.

Come to Montana to see how good winter can be.

Trumpeter Swans / Alan & Sandy Carey photo

G. Wiltsie photo

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Cover photo by G. Brettnacher

Downhill

CHALLENGE. EXHILARATION. FREEDOM. IT'S WHY YOU SKI.

Nestled within the magnificent Montana Rockies are 14 destination resorts and friendly day use ski areas. Many of these are located within our national forests. Each of our four largest resorts offer more skiable terrain than Aspen and in Montana, it is not unusual to ski 20,000 feet of exhilarating vertical drop in one day! Here you can set your own pace. Steep, exhilarating chutes to satisfy the experts. The finest groomed cruising runs in the country. Friendly hills for the ski fanatics of the future and plenty of our famous dry, dependable powder.

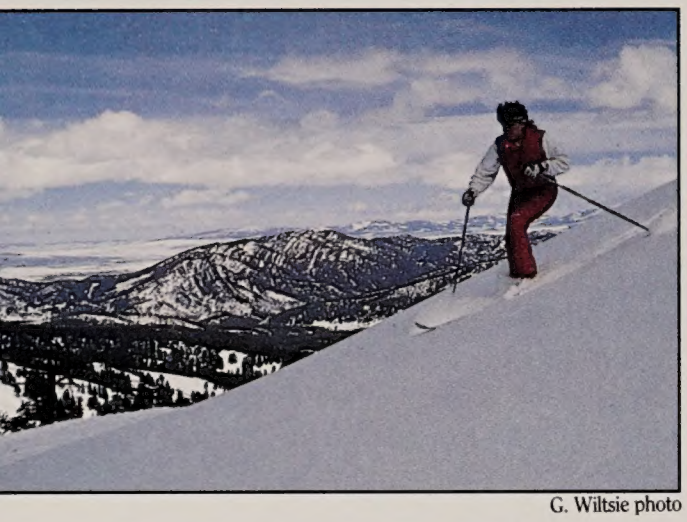
We'll complete your Montana experience with lodging and activities to warm you in body and spirit: moonlight sleigh rides, tours of Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks, and at day's end, the comforts of cozy inns and full-service resorts. See page 16 for the range of lodging available for winter visitors. Then start planning your ski vacation to the best-kept secret in the northern Rockies.

Snowboarders are welcome at nearly all of Montana's ski areas with lessons and equipment readily available / G. Wiltsie photo

P. Dix photo

◄ You'll find plenty of dry, dependable powder at any of Montana's 14 downhill ski areas / G. Wiltsie photo

THE BIG MOUNTAIN



G. Wiltsie photo

Enjoy Montana's largest, friendliest ski resort—Whitefish's Big Mountain. Find 4,000 acres of skiing, powder-filled bowls, nordic center, alpine village and breathtaking vistas. Enjoy wide open slopes without lift lines. Ride the high-speed detachable quad chairlift or gondola. With affordable ski packages, learn-to-ski programs, fine dining and nightlife, it's family fun!

Facilities: The Big Mountain Alpine Village, with slopeside or ski-to accommodations for up to 1,500 people, has restaurants, casinos, shopping, day care, ski shop and school and a 15 km Nordic Center. Or shuttle to neighboring Whitefish or Kalispell for more activities.

Location: 35 miles west of Glacier National Park, 5 miles north of Whitefish and 19 miles north of Kalispell. Fly Delta, Horizon Air or United Express/United Airlines with daily service to Kalispell. Amtrak services Whitefish from the east and west. With confirmed reservations, skiers are met at the airport or train depot. Rental cars, taxis available.

Season:

Thanksgiving to mid-April. Open daily 9:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Night skiing mid-December through March, Wednesday-Sunday, 4:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

Average Snowfall:

20 feet at the summit.

Base Elevation:

4,800 feet.

Top Elevation:

7,000 feet.

Vertical Drop:

2,220 feet.

Longest Run:

2.5 miles.

Trails & Slopes: 50 marked runs and unlimited tree skiing on 4,040 acres in the Flathead National Forest. 25% beginner, 55% intermediate, 20% expert. Snowboarders, telemark and mono skiers welcome.

5 days skiing/5 nights lodging, economy lodging starts at

$275

per person, double occupancy.

Deluxe lodging starts at $365/person, double occupancy. Rates do not include state accommodation tax. American Meal Plan Packages available in some lodges. Custom packages available upon request.

Lifts: 1 new Doppelmayr high-speed detachable quad chairlift with gondolas for evening use; 4 triple chairs; 1 double chair; 1 T-bar; 1 platter lift.

Lift Capacity: 11,684 skiers per hour.

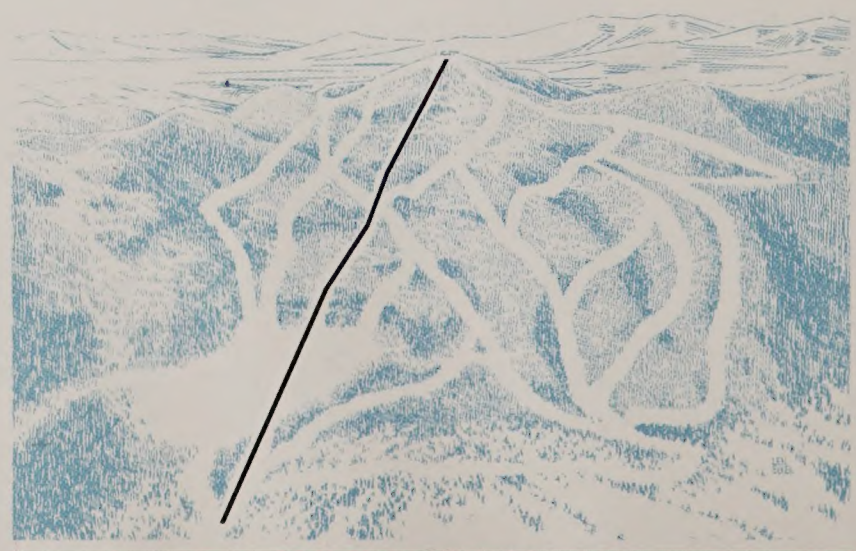
Lift Rates: Adult, $27; junior (13-18), $21; seniors, $21; child (7-12), $14. Adult night, $9; juniors & seniors night, $7; child night, $6. Children 6 and under FREE. Platter lift FREE at all times. Multi-day and special group ticket rates.

Lessons: 2-hour group lesson, $16; 1-hour private lesson, $36; first timers lesson and lift, all day $28; half day $16. Skill builder packages, Kids Ski School, snowboard, telemark and cross country lessons. Weekly specialty clinics include bumps, powder, short turns and racing.

Rentals: Adult (skis, boots, poles), $14/day; children under 6 and seniors, half price. Nordic equipment, $14. Snowboards, $22. Packages available.

Events: Bierstube "Pray for Snow" Party, "Learn to Ski" Week, Winter Warm-up Value Season, December; Glacier Glide Nordic Race, Super Value Party Season, January; Whitefish Annual Winter Carnival, Doug Smith Memorial Downhill Race, February; Big Mountain/Doug Betters Winter Classic, Bump Bash Mogul Contest, Race to the Place, March; Spring Value Season, Furniture Race, Ski/Golf Tournament, Annual Beach Party Weekend, Snow Leopard Mountain Bike Downhill, April.

For More Information: Write The Big Mountain, P.O. Box 1400, Whitefish, MT 59937 or call (406) 862-3511 in Montana, 1-800-858-5439 in U.S. or 1-800-637-7547 in Canada.



BIG SKY SKI AND SUMMER RESORT

G. Wiltsie photo

Big Sky. The very name echoes the nickname of the state of Montana. When you see the majestic peaks, rushing rivers and fine amenities at Big Sky Ski and Summer Resort you can be confident that you're enjoying the best a single location has to offer. From the bighorn sheep at the entrance to the friendly local folks, the Big Sky experience is truly a memorable one. Get some tips from the Austrian and American ski instructors. Let the kids enjoy the fun day care. Big Sky's slopeside lodging, variety of entertainment, fine dining and new conference center make it the ideal mountain resort.

Facilities: Big Sky is Montana's most complete destination resort with more than 1,000 rooms and condominium units. Big Sky consists of Mountain Village and Meadow Village located 6 miles apart. Regular shuttles between both villages and the ski area eliminate the hassle of driving and parking. Daily shuttles to Yellowstone National Park. Nordic skiing is available at nearby Lone Mountain Ranch. Apres ski includes shopping, ice skating, gourmet sleigh ride dinners, ski movies, dancing, lighthearted poker games (poker is legal in Montana!) or relaxing in the outdoor heated pools, jacuzzis and saunas. Choose from 15 restaurants and 11 nightspots in the area.

Location: In the Gallatin Canyon, 43 miles south of Bozeman on U.S. Highway 191 and just 18 miles north of Yellowstone National Park. Continental, Delta and Northwest provide daily jet service to Bozeman's Gallatin Field Airport. Regularly scheduled shuttles meet most major flights. Rental cars and taxis are also available.

Season:

Mid-November to mid-April. Open daily 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Average Annual Snowfall:

400 inches.

Base Elevation:

6,970 feet.

Top Elevation:

10,000 feet.

Vertical Drop:

3,030 feet.

Longest Run:

3 miles.

Monday-Tuesday: 2 nights, 2 days skiing, quad occupancy. First class lodging at Huntley Lodge starts at

$78

per person.

Inquire about other packages and condominiums.

Trails & Slopes: Two mountains with 55 trails on more than 1,000 acres. 20% beginner, 50% intermediate, 30% expert. Big Sky has snowmaking to ensure quality conditions early and late season. New for 1990-91 night skiing on Andesite Mountain.

Lifts: Two high-speed detachable 4-passenger enclosed gondolas; 4 double chairs; 2 triple chairs including the new Southern Comfort servicing 5 new intermediate runs and 2 surface tows.

Lift Capacity: 9,000 skiers per hour.

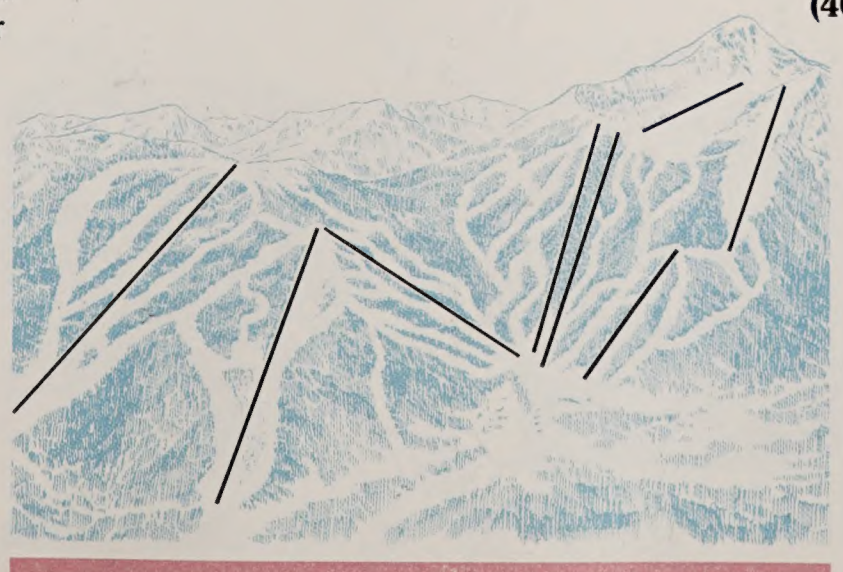
Lift Rates: Adult, $30; children 12 and under, $15; seniors 70 and older, $15.

Rentals: $18 per day. High-performance equipment is also available at any of Big Sky's 3 ski shops. Discounts available for 3 or more consecutive day rentals at Performance Ski Rental & Repair. Snowboarding and telemark equipment and lessons are available.

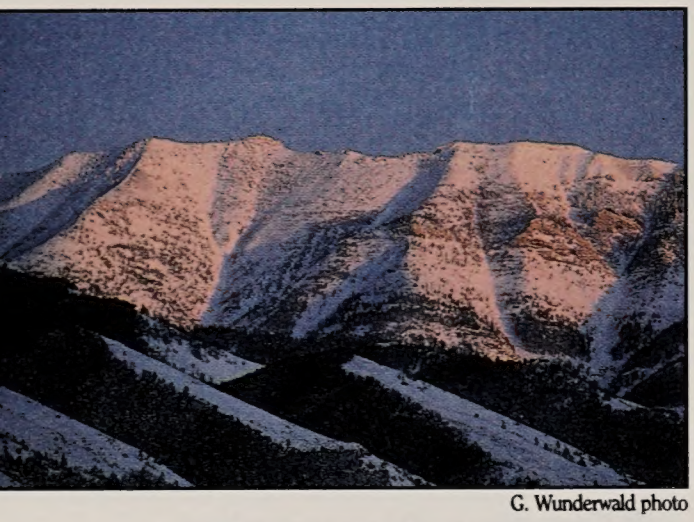
Ski Instruction: Lessons are available for all levels of skiers at Big Sky's International Ski School. $18 for 2-hour group lessons, adult or child. Children's Ski Day Camp combines for activities, healthy meals and improving skills, $30/day. Beginner ski packages for first-time skiers, including rental equipment, lesson and rope tow tickets, $28, adult or child.

Events: Medical seminars and ski club groups throughout winter; Winter Carnival, January 11-12; Spring Carnival, April 5-6.

For More Information: Write Big Sky Ski and Summer Resort, P.O. Box 1, Big Sky, MT 59716 or call 1-800-548-4486 outside Montana or 1-800-824-7767 (inside) or (406) 995-4211 (local & Canada) for reservations.



BRIDGER BOWL



G. Wunderwald photo

Come home to Bridger!

Ski in the radiant warmth of our bright, western sun through snow as light as goose down feathers. This is Montana's legendary land of powder known as "The Cold Smoke." Breath-taking alpine slopes and bowls, vistas of five majestic mountain ranges and the greatest variety of ski terrain in Montana. Unforgettable fun in the snow and sun for the whole family. Discover what keeps everyone coming home to Bridger Bowl.

Facilities: At the area there is a new base lodge with cafeteria, full-service bar, day care center and ski school, 2 rental shops, sandwich shop and beer stube and a mid-mountain chalet with food service, beer and wine.

Location: Only 16 scenic miles NE of Bozeman, a small sporting town with big city amenities. Fly into Bozeman on Continental, Delta or Northwest airlines. Car rental or weekend shuttle bus service available.

Season:

Mid-December to mid-April. Open daily 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Average Annual Snowfall:

Approx. 400 inches.

Base Elevation:

6,100 feet.

Top Elevation:

8,100 feet.

Vertical Drop:

2,000 feet.

Longest Run:

2.5 miles.

Trails & Slopes: First winch-cat grooming program in Montana provides intermediate and advanced skiers with carpet-smooth runs through mogul fields. Bridger Bowl offers over 50 runs with expansive bowls, powder glades, winding trails and groomed slopes on 2,000 acres in the Gallatin National Forest. Nearly one-third of Bridger's 800 acres of lift-accessible skiing terrain is groomed.

3 nights/3 days All Season Special

$100

quad occupancy, includes lodging and lift tickets.

Several packages available with a variety of hotels, condos, private homes, bed and breakfast inns from which to choose.

Lifts: 5 double chairs; 1 pony lift.

Lift Capacity: 5,100 skiers per hour.

Lift Rates: Adults, $21; children, $9; seniors, $13.

Lessons: Alpine, telemark and snow-boarding, group lessons, $15 (approx. 2 hours); private lessons, $30/hour. PSIA certified instructors.

Rentals: Two sales and rental shops on the mountain. Complete packages start at $12/day; other equipment and rentals available in Bozeman.

Snowboarding: Permitted. Rental equipment and lessons available.

Events: Torchlight Parade & Fireworks Display, December 30; Bridger Bowl's Birthday/Jim Bridger Days, January 11-13; Freestyle Competition, January 12-13 and March 23-24; Powder 8's, February 10; Snowboard Race, February 23; Pinhead Classic, March 9; Eagle Mount: Ski for the Green, March 17; Alpine Speed-Skiing Race, mid March; Over-the-Hill Gang Cup, March 31; Ski Caribé, April 6-7; Double Pole, Pad & Pedal, April 7. For other races and events call 1-800-223-9609 or (406) 587-2111.

For More Information: Write Bridger Bowl Ski Area, 15795 Bridger Canyon Road, Bozeman, MT 59715. For reservations call 1-800-223-9609 or (406) 587-2111.

DISCOVERY BASIN - FAIRMONT HOT SPRINGS RESORT

G. Wiltsie photo

Nestled near the Anaconda/Pintler wilderness area of southwestern Montana, you'll find Discovery Basin ski area and a naturally inviting resort known for its recreational bounty and unique, western hospitality. Make your ski weekend vacation more than just memorable. After a day on the slopes at Discovery Basin, indulge in the soaking tubs and two Olympic-size pools filled from Fairmont's naturally hot, spring water.

Facilities: Fairmont features a coffee shop, dining room, casino and lounge with dancing and live entertainment. On the slopes at Discovery, you'll find a day lodge with food and beverage service, ski shop, rental shop and ski school.

Location: Discovery Basin is 32 miles west of Fairmont; 20 miles west of Anaconda; 45 miles west of Butte on Montana Highway 1 off Interstate 90. Fly to Butte on Delta or Horizon Air. Rental cars, taxi and complimentary airport shuttle available to/from Fairmont upon request.

Season:

Thanksgiving through Easter, open daily 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Average Annual Snowfall:

200 inches.

Base Elevation:

6,850 feet.

Top Elevation:

8,150 feet.

Longest Run:

2 miles.

$79
per night/double occupancy
(includes 2 lift tickets).

$140
2 nights/double occupancy
(includes 4 lift tickets).

1-800-332-3272
or nationwide
1-800-443-2381

Vertical Drop: 1,300 feet.

Trails & Slopes: 13 runs in the Deerlodge National Forest. 40% novice, 35% intermediate, 25% expert.

Lifts: 2 double chair lifts; 2 pony lifts.

Lift Capacity: 2,400 skiers per hour.

Lift Rates: All-day adult, $16; all-day children (under 12)/seniors, $8; half-day (begins at 12:30 p.m.), $12. Inquire about special group rates. All major credit cards accepted.

Rentals: Alpine, nordic and snowboard rentals available in all sizes, $11.00/day.

Sales: Top-quality equipment available in Discovery Basin's ski shop.

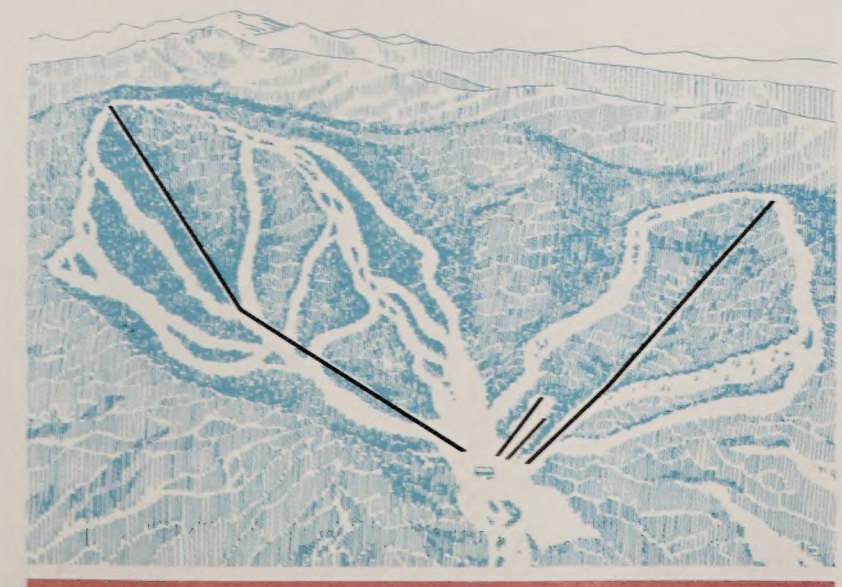
Lessons: All-day, $20; half-day, $12; private, $25/hour.

Ski Touring: 5K groomed trails, miles of ungroomed touring trails. Rentals/lessons available.

Events: Winternational; John Mollish Memorial Ski Race for Boys and Girls; annual races sponsored by Pepsi and Brown Derby.

For Ski Information: Discovery Basin Ski Corporation, P.O. Box 221, Anaconda, MT 59711, phone (406) 563-2184.

For Lodging Information: Fairmont Hot Springs Resort, 1500 Fairmont Rd., Anaconda, MT 59711. In Montana call toll free 1-800-332-3272, out-of-state call toll free 1-800-443-2381.



MONTANA SNOWBOWL

B. Sallaz photo

The heart and soul of the bowl challenge. Deep, powdery, natural bowls have been Snowbowl's trademark throughout the years. Although many miles of cruising runs are groomed nightly to provide all skill levels with a wide variety of skiing, Snowbowl still has some of the most exciting and challenging ski slopes in North America. Battle the Grizzly or play in the powder of Angel Face and the East Bowls or shred the Chicken Chute. With 2,600 feet of skiable vertical drop, there is an altitude adjustment at every turn. With the Bowl's uncrowded slopes, the 850 acres of skiable terrain is yours to fully enjoy.

Facilities: The Last Run Inn Saloon, base lodge with a full-service cafeteria, nursery, rental shop, the Grizzly Chalet at mid-mountain and the Cherry House on top.

Location: 12 miles northwest of Missoula, home of the University of Montana. Take the Reserve Street exit off I-90, then north on Grant Creek Road, then left onto Snowbowl Road. Missoula features 2,000 rooms and 150 lounges and restaurants, with enough excitement to keep you going for days. Northwest, Delta, Continental, Horizon or United Express serve Missoula's international airport.

Season:

Late November to mid-April. Open Wednesday-Monday.

Average Annual Snowfall:

300 inches.

Base Elevation:

5,000 feet.

Top Elevation:

7,600 feet.

Vertical Drop:

2,600 feet.

Longest Run:

3 miles.

Trails & Slopes: More than 30 trails and groomed runs, open powder bowls and tree skiing, located on 1,100 acres in the Lolo National Forest, adjoining the Rattlesnake wilderness area. 20% beginner and novice, 40% intermediate, 40% advanced and expert.

2 days skiing, 2 nights lodging, double occupancy starts at

$53.00

per person.

Group packages as low as $23/ person/night for stays of 2 or more nights in groups of 6 or more. Packages with a wide variety of accommodations are available. Please call or write.

Lifts: Two double chairs; 1 T-bar; 1 beginner tow.

Lift Capacity: 2,600 skiers per hour.

Lift Rates: Adult, $19; child, $9.50; senior, student and half-day rates available. Children 5 and under and beginner tow are free.

Rentals: Complete alpine package, $12/day. Snowboards, $16/day. Separate rates available. Ski accessories for sale.

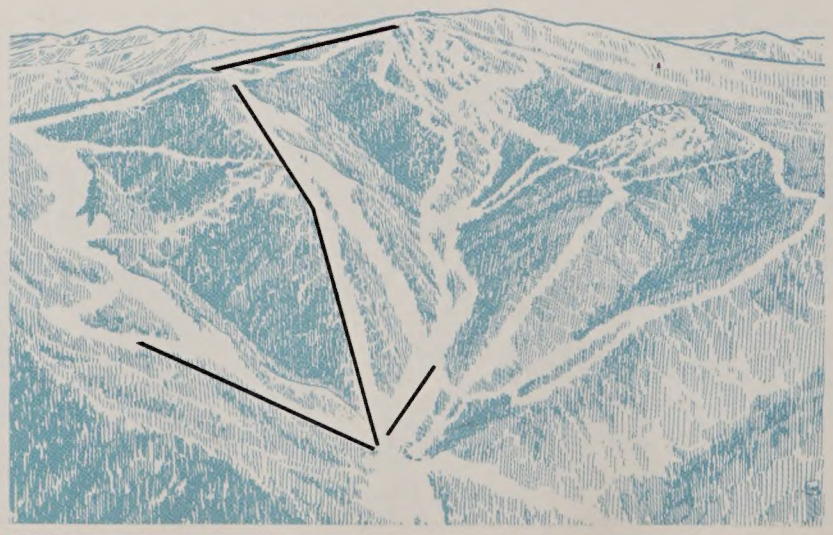
Lessons: PSIA certified instructors. 2-hour adult group lesson, $14; 1-hour adult private lesson, $25; GSF (Guaranteed Skiing Fun) package for beginners, includes lift, lesson and rental, $21.50; Pee-Wee private lessons, $12; day care-ski school for children 3-6 years, includes equipment, lesson, lift ticket and lunch, $22.50.

Snowboarding: Snowbowl has ideal terrain for snowboard skiing including a "half pipe." Snowboarders are welcome. Rentals and lessons are available at the area.

Ski Touring: Telemark skiers welcome. Several maintained cross country trails available near Missoula.

Events: Pepsi Sport Racing every Saturday; Snowboard Jam, February 9-10; Northern Division Freestyle Championship, February 23-24; National Gelande Jump Championship, March 2-3; Snowbowl Triathlon, March 17; Best of the Bowl Race, March 24; Snow-Golf Tournament, March 31.

For More Information: Write Montana Snowbowl, 1700 Snowbowl Road, Missoula, MT 59802 or call (406) 549-9777.



RED LODGE MOUNTAIN

G. Wiltsie photo

Same planet—different world.

Pulling into Red Lodge, stepping out into the clean mountain air, you may think you're in a different world. Red Lodge is small, friendly, strong-willed, a shelter from the world outside—the kind of town that changes with the seasons, instead of the times. On the mountain, you will feel the difference too. The sun shines 5 out of every 7 days, yet we average 250 inches of snow a year. Join the others who are discovering why Red Lodge Mountain is ... on the same planet ... but definitely in a different world.

Facilities: The mountain offers a ski rental and repair shop, a ski accessory and gift shop, 7 day a week ski school, SKI WEE program, 2 cafeterias, 1 saloon/restaurant, 1 beer and wine restaurant, central reservations and friendly people.

Location: 1-hour drive, via I-90, then U.S. Hwy 212, from Billings with no mountain passes. Billings Logan International Airport is served by 50 flights daily on Northwest, United, Delta, Continental and Northwest Airlink. Non-stop jet service daily to and from Minneapolis/St. Paul. Rental cars available at the airport. Free shuttle to ski area.

Season:

Early December to April 14. Open daily 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Average Annual Snowfall:

250 inches.

Base Elevation:

7,400 feet.

Top Elevation:

9,416 feet.

Vertical Drop:

2,016 feet.

Longest Run:

Lazy M is 2.5 miles.

Christmas package (December 15-31): 4 nights/4 days motel room for 4 with indoor swimming pool & jacuzzi, family sleigh ride and a real, old-fashioned Christmas tree in your room, includes lift ticket:

$146 adult

$74 child.

Or condo for 6, $167/adult; $95/child. Red Lodge central reservations can custom build packages for your family or group. Call 1-800-444-8977 (U.S. and Canada).

All packages on a space available basis. Rates subject to change. Room tax included. No substitutions on packages. Additional nights available at regular rate.

Trails & Slopes: 30 slopes, trails and open meadows covering 25 miles on 500 acres in Montana's Custer National Forest. 15% novice, 60% intermediate, 25% expert. Snowmaking assures good conditions in early season.

Lifts: 4 double chairs; 1 triple chair; 1 mitey-mite.

Lift Capacity: 6,690 skiers per hour.

Lift Rates: Adult, $20; children 12 and under, $10; seniors, $12. Group rates. All major credit cards accepted. Beginning January 7, Mondays and Tuesdays are discount days: $12 lift tickets, $10 lessons, $10 rentals (excludes holidays).

Lessons: 50 PSIA certified ski instructors. 1-hour group lessons, $14; private lessons, $25/hour. First-timers package: $15 for anyone 7 years and older, includes lift ticket, rental and a 1-hour lesson. Inquire about other learners' packages. SKI WEE program for the 3-6 year old includes equipment, lift privileges, lessons, snacks, crafts and supervision. All day, $25; half-day, $20.

Rentals: Adult, $12; children 12 & under, $9. Demo/performance skis, $20/day. Discounts for 2 or more consecutive days. Telemark skiers and snowboarders welcome. Equipment in the area.

Events: Learn to Ski Free Day, January 18; Winter Karnival Krazee, March 2; Western States J1 FIS Championship Races, March 17-23; Easter Celebration, March 31; 3 Jump Jackpot, April 6-7; Beach Party Weekend, April 13-14.

For More Information: Write Red Lodge Mountain, P.O. Box 750, Red Lodge, MT 59068 or call (406) 446-2610. For accommodations and recreation packages, call toll free 1-800-444-8977, U.S. and Canada.

SHOWDOWN SKI AREA

Showdown photo

Relaxed and uncrowded, Showdown is a friendly, down-home area located just 60 miles southeast of Great Falls—a special place to ski that Montanans have known and loved for more than 50 years. Showdown offers 1400 vertical feet of tree-lined trails and open slopes, including challenging runs for experts, variety for intermediates and friendly hills for beginners.

Facilities: Full-service cafeteria, Hole-in-the-Wall Saloon, pro shop offering skis, ski repair and accessories, ski rental shop and nursery on the mountain. Certified ski school and professional ski patrol.

Location: U.S. Highway 89, 8 miles south of Neihart, 60 miles southeast of Great Falls and 30 miles north of White Sulphur Springs. Fly to Great Falls and rent a car.

Season:

Late November to April 7. Open Wednesday-Sunday and all holidays including December 19-January 1 (except Christmas day) and January 21, February 18 and April 1.

Average Annual Snowfall:

240 inches.

Base Elevation:

6,800 feet.

Top Elevation:

8,200 feet.

Vertical Drop:

1,400 feet.

Trails & Slopes: 32 runs on forest-lined trails, open slopes and glades in the Lewis and Clark National Forest. 35% beginner, 40% intermediate, 25% advanced.

3 days skiing
3 nights lodging

$89

per person/double occupancy.

Lifts: 1 triple chair; 1 double chair; 1 poma-lift; 1 rope tow.

Lift Capacity: 3,000 skiers per hour.

Lift Rates: Adult, $18; Juniors (6-12), $12; Seniors over 70, $12; children 5 and under ski FREE. Great Mid-Week Escape—Wednesdays and Thursdays—lift tickets are $12.

Rentals: Downhill package, $13/day. Snowboard package, $20/day.

Lessons: Alpine, telemark skiing and snowboarding lessons, $12. Private lesson, $22/hour. First Tracks—package for beginners, $22. SKI WEE (ages 3-5), $27/day, $22/half day.

Events: Pepsi Sport Slalom Challenge every Saturday and Sunday; Regional Special Olympics, January 19; Bennett-Subaru Kids Carnival, February 24; Fireman's Challenge, March 3; Snowboard Classic, March 9; Skolf Tournament, March 17; Belt Creek Headwaters Relay, March 30; Corporate Cup, April 7.

Lodging Packages: A variety of lodging packages are available at hotels and bed and breakfasts in Neihart, White Sulphur Springs and Great Falls.

For More Information: Write Showdown Ski Area, Box 92, Neihart, MT 59465 or call (406) 236-5522. 24-hour snow phone (406) 771-1300.

GREAT DIVIDE

Skiing began on this great mountain back in 1941, with recent additions making Great Divide comfortable and convenient. Family fun prevails on the well-groomed, easy-skiing lower mountain, while vast back-country type chutes and bowls with major groomed trails on the upper mountain challenge all skill levels. New trails and bowls are added each year. The result is Montana's large-terrain, low-priced fun skiing alternative . . . GREAT DIVIDE!

Facilities: Attractive new fully-carpeted base lodge with cafeteria and bar. Over 500 sets of ski and snowboard rentals with repair and tuning services. Children's ski programs for ages 3 and up, with special children's playroom. Full range of lodging available in Helena.

Location: 22 miles northwest of Helena just above the lively ghost town of Marysville. Head north on I-15, exit 200, then west on Hwy. 279 to Marysville Road.

Season:

Early December to early April. Wednesday-Sunday and holidays.

Average Annual Snowfall:

150 inches.

Base Elevation:

5,900 feet.

Top Elevation:

7,230 feet.

Vertical Drop:

1,330 feet.

Trails & Slopes: 37 designated trails covering 500 acres of ski-all terrain: 10% easiest, 40% more difficult, 40% most difficult, 10% extreme. Snowmaking enhances conditions.

Lifts: 2 double chairs; 1 handle tow.

Lift Rates: Weekday adult, $12; children (6-12), $8; pre-school (5 and under), $5. Weekend/holiday adult, $15; children, $9; pre-school, $7. Senior (65 plus), half price. Handle tow always free.

Rentals: Ski package, $12/day. Snowboards, $15/day.

Lessons: Group lessons, $10. Private $15 hour. Free beginner lessons every day at 10 a.m. KIDSKI program daily for ages 3-8. PSIA member ski school.

Events: Montana Alpine Challenge every Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

For More Information: Write Great Divide, P.O. Box SKI, Marysville, MT 59640 or call (406) 449-3746.

LOST TRAIL POWDER MOUNTAIN

Lost Trail Powder Mountain was one of the first downhill ski areas to open in Montana over 50 years ago. Today, it's a favorite, known for its consistently good snow and long season.

Facilities: Full-service cafeteria, ski rental and service, gift shop and ski school. Stay off the mountain at Camp Creek Bed & Breakfast or Lost Trail Hot Springs Resort, with pool, jacuzzi and sauna.

Location: 90 miles south of Missoula, on U.S. Highway 93 at Montana-Idaho border.

Season:

December to May 1, Thursday-Sunday and holidays. Open 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Average Annual Snowfall:

300 inches.

Base Elevation:

6,600 feet.

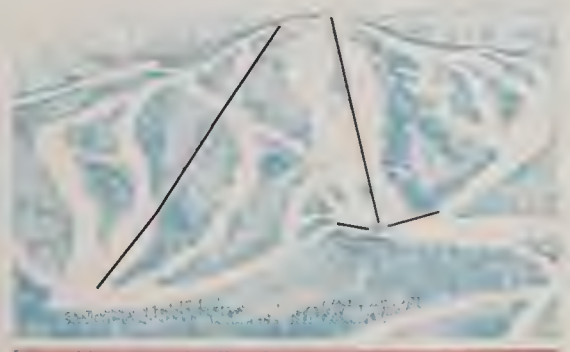
Top Elevation:

7,800 feet.

Trails & Slopes: 18 runs, in the Bitterroot National Forest. 10% beginner, 60% intermediate, 30% advanced. Snowboards and telemark skiers welcome.

Lifts: 2 double chairs; 2 rope tows.

Lift Capacity: 900 skiers per hour.



Lift Rates: Adult, $14; half-day adult, $10; child (10 and under), $7; half-day child, $5; rope tow, $3. Children 5 and under FREE. Group rates.

Lessons: Ski patrol and PSIA certified ski school. Beginner, individual and group rates.

Rentals: Ski shop with rentals, equipment and accessories.

Packages: Camp Creek Inn Bed & Breakfast, $55 per couple/per night includes lift ticket and breakfast.

Events: Learn-to-Ski Month, January; Mogul Freestyle Race, February; Pepsi Family Race Day, March; Spring Steak Fry, April; End-of-Season Luau, closing day.

For More Information: Write P.O. Box 191, Darby, MT 59829 or call (406) 821-3211 or (406) 821-3508.

MAVERICK MOUNTAIN

Discover one of Montana's best kept secrets. A full service ski resort with great skiing, nearby motel and lodge, restaurants, lounge and natural hot spring pools. Enjoy skiing the way it's meant to be on uncrowded slopes, wide groomed trails, powder runs, wildlife watches and a grand view of the Grasshopper Valley and Pioneer Mountains. Maverick Mountain is a unique resort with affordable rates and true western hospitality where families and friends will find an exceptional day of skiing.

Facilities: Maverick has a cafeteria, wine room and compliment of skier services. Food and lodging are just two miles from the slope at Elkhorn Hot Springs offering cabins, meals and soaks in the hot spring pools and at the Grasshopper Inn with modern motel units, restaurant and lounge.

Season:
December 1st through spring skiing.

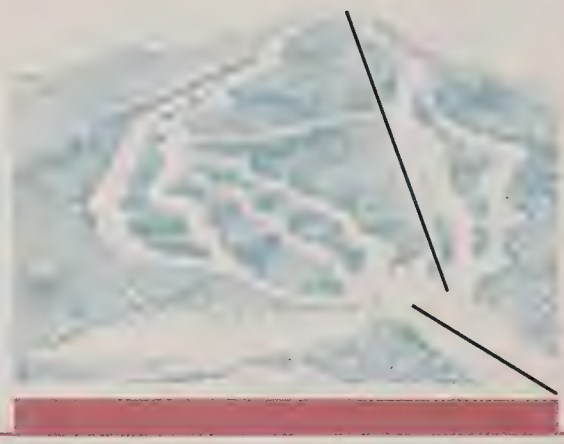
Average Annual Snowfall:
140 inches at base to 215 inches at summit.

Base Elevation:
7,100 feet.

Top Elevation:
9,220 feet.

Vertical Drop:
2,120 feet.

Longest Run:
2.25 miles.



Trails & Slopes: Located in the Beaverhead National Forest with 10 trails covering 12 miles plus a beginner's slope. 20% novice, 40% intermediate, 40% expert.

Lifts: 1 double chair; 1 pony lift.

Lift Capacity: 700 skiers per hour.

Lift Rates: Thursday-Sunday, all-day adult, $14; all-day junior, $8.

Lessons: Maverick has a PSIA certified ski school with 18 instructors available for private or group lessons.

Rentals: Complete rental shop with rates starting at $12 a day.

Snowboard & Telemark: Bring your own equipment and enjoy Maverick's slopes. Snowboard rentals available.

For More Information: Write Maverick Mountain, Polaris, MT 59746. Additional information and snow report, call (406) 834-3454.

DOWNHILL QUICK REFERENCE CHART

SKI AREA*	LOCATOR NUMBER	AVG. SNOWFALL	VERTICAL DROP	BASE ELEVATION	TOP ELEVATION	LIFT CAPACITY/HR.	LIFTS**	RUNS	% BEGINNER	% INTERMEDIATE	% ADVANCED	ADULT RATES***	CHILD RATES***
BEEF TRAIL BUTTE (406) 494-7000	(11)	N/A	800	6,000	6,800	N/A	2S	8	30	60	10	$8	$4
BIG MOUNTAIN WHITEFISH (406) 862-3511	(1)	250	2,220	4,800	7,000	11,684	1Q 4T 1D 2S	50	25	55	20	$27	$14
BIG SKY BIG SKY (406) 995-4211	(2)	400	3,030	6,970	10,000	9,000	2G 2T 4D 2S	55	20	50	30	$30	$15
BRIDGER BOWL BOZEMAN (406) 587-2111	(3)	400	2,000	6,100	8,100	5,100	5D 1S	50	25	35	40	$21	$9
DISCOVERY BASIN ANACONDA (406) 563-2184	(4)	200	1,300	6,850	8,150	2,400	2D 2S	13	40	35	25	$16	$8
GREAT DIVIDE MARYSVILLE (406) 449-3746	(12)	150	1,330	5,900	7,230	2,000	2D 1S	37	10	40	40	$15	$9
LOST TRAIL POWDER MTN. DARBY (406) 821-3211	(8)	300	1,200	6,600	7,800	900	2D 2S	18	10	60	30	$14	$7
MARSHALL SKI AREA MISSOULA (406) 258-6619	(13)	150	1,500	3,900	5,400	2,900	1T 3S	7	10	74	10	N/A	N/A
MAVERICK MOUNTAIN DILLON (406) 834-3454	(5)	140	2,120	7,100	9,220	700	1D 1S	10	20	40	40	$14	$8
MONTANA SNOWBOWL MISSOULA (406) 549-9777	(6)	300	2,600	5,000	7,600	2,600	2D 2S	30	20	40	40	$19	$9.50
RED LODGE MTN. RED LODGE (406) 446-2610	(7)	250	2,016	7,400	9,416	6,690	4D 1T 1S	30	15	60	25	$20	$10
ROCKY MOUNTAIN HI CHOTEAU (406) 466-2422	(9)	300	995	6,400	7,400	1,000	1D 2S	25	20	50	30	$14	$10
SHOWDOWN SKI AREA NEIHART (406) 236-5522	(10)	240	1,400	6,800	8,200	3,000	1T 1D 2S	32	35	40	25	$18	$12
TURNER MOUNTAIN LIBBY (406) 293-3832	(14)	N/A	2,165	3,835	6,000	1,000	2S	9	5	25	70	N/A	N/A

N/A
Information not available.

***LOCATION & PHONE**
See the map on the back cover of this guide for location. Please consult the ski area page listing for full address and additional phone numbers.

****LIFTS**
Q — high-speed quad chair
G — high-speed detachable gondola
T — triple
D — double
S — surface

*****RATES**
Rates subject to change. Other rates may be available including junior, senior, group, night skiing and packages. Special restrictions may apply. Consult the ski area for more information.

BIG SKY ALPINE GUIDES

It's time you discover the winter wonderland that awaits you in Montana's northern Rockies. Nestled within these magnificent mountains are 14 downhill ski areas, ranging from big-name resorts to down-home day areas, plus hundreds of kilometers of expertly groomed ski trails and endless miles of backcountry skiing. Two of America's most favorite national parks—Yellowstone and Glacier, are adorned in a blanket of white awaiting the avid winter sports person. Why ski just one of these areas when Big Sky Alpine Guides can escort you to several of these spectacular destinations? The Big Sky Alpine Guides, Montana's first statewide ski guide service, can be your ticket to the winter world that unfolds before you. The Big Sky Alpine Guides will be your guide, chauffeur and host to the best skiing in the Big Sky Country. Tailor-make your own winter ski holiday in Montana's Rockies or choose one of our many alpine adventures. Ski packages include deluxe 4WD transportation, Montana-style lodging (including cozy bed & breakfast inns, hot springs resorts, historic hotels and on-the-hill accommodations), guidance both on and off the mountain, all lift tickets and trail fees plus many extras. Join Big Sky Alpine Guides on your winter escape to the Montana Rockies. Give us a call, we know them all.

For More Information: Write P.O. Box SCHUSS, Marysville, MT 59640 or call 1-800-MONT-SKI. In Canada call (406) 442-2809.

W. Brewster photo

PROFESSIONAL SKI INSTRUCTORS OF AMERICA

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN DIVISION

Montana is not just a great place to ski. It's a great place to learn about skiing. Your PSIA-NRM Instructor can teach you what you want to know whatever your level of expertise. Skiing with a member of the Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA) assures you a lesson targeted to your needs, packed with appropriate information and most important, lots of fun!

Member instructors know how to zero in on your goals. Whether you want a friendly companion for your first run or tips from a pro on skiing glades or bumps, your PSIA instructor can tailor a program to your needs. They're experts on kid stuff, too, so children and teens can plan on a great time.

Look for PSIA nordic downhill, track, and snowboard instructors, too. In other words, look for the professionals.

The PSIA shield means quality. And when your time is at stake, that's important.

PROFESSIONAL SKI INSTRUCTORS OF AMERICA NRM

LODGING

Whether you seek the comfort of a slopeside condominium or the economy of a clean, modern motel, you'll be delighted by the variety and value of lodging in Montana. Montana ski areas offer a full range of lodging on the mountain or nearby in lively western cities and towns. Menus that range from ranch-style to gourmet, special ski packages, airport and ski shuttle service, jacuzzi & sauna are just some of the extras you'll find at many of these lodging facilities near your favorite ski hill.

LODGING AT THE BIG MOUNTAIN

AERO INN: Ideal for skiers looking for clean, comfortable and affordable accommodations. An easy drive to The Big Mountain, plus numerous cross country and snowmobile areas. Beautiful indoor pool, jacuzzi and sauna, free Continental breakfast, no charge for local calls. $32 per person/per night. Group rates, lift ticket and snowmobile packages available. Write Aero Inn, 1830 Hwy. 93 South, Kalispell, MT 59901. Or call 1-800-843-6114 (U.S. and Canada).

ALPINGLOW INN: Convenience and comfort in the ideal location next to the slopes, shops and restaurants. The Alpinglow Inn features tasteful hotel rooms with television, phone, 1 queen and 2 twin beds. Enjoy 2 outdoor jacuzzis, a sauna and the glass-enclosed restaurant open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Children, 12 and under, stay FREE; one child per adult. American meal plan packages. 5 day/5 night packages as low as $330, double occupancy. Custom packages upon request. Call The Big Mountain at (406) 862-3511, 1-800-858-5439 (U.S.), 1-800-637-7547 (Canada).

BAY POINT ESTATES: Fully furnished condominiums with indoor pool, hot tubs, complete ski packages, including car. Family and group rates plus snowmobiling packages available. Conveniently situated between the resort town of Whitefish and The Big Mountain ski resort. Rental car waiting for you upon arrival at Amtrak or airport. 6 night/5 day ski package, $288 per person including car (quad). Call or write for information or reservations: P.O. Box 35S, Whitefish, MT 59937; 1-800-327-2108 (U.S. and Canada).

CHALET MOTEL: Located one mile south of downtown Whitefish, just 8 miles from The Big Mountain. Ski shuttle runs daily. Queen-size beds, color cable TV, large indoor pool, jacuzzi and sauna. Beautiful views of The Big Mountain from your room. Restaurants, theaters and shopping directly across the street. $47 per person/per night, double occupancy. Includes lift ticket and breakfast. Children under 12 stay free. Reservations: 6430 Hwy. 93 South, Whitefish, MT 59937; (406) 862-5581.

CRESTWOOD RESORT: Accommodations for family and friends. Located in Whitefish at the base of Big Mountain, Crestwood Resort features fully furnished condominiums for up to six people. Fireplaces, spas, HBO/color cable TV, in-unit laundry facilities and membership to the Downtowner Health Club are all part of your stay. Cross country ski on-site as a warm up to the many groomed trails in the area. Call 1-800-766-1181 (U.S. and Canada) for rental or package rates.

DUCK INN LODGE: A charming new ski lodge just eight miles from the lifts. Located in Whitefish on the river's edge. Ten beautiful rooms, all with fireplaces, large deepsoak tubs, cable TV, phones, queen-size beds and balconies. Redwood jacuzzi area. Continental breakfast included. Airport and Amtrak pickup. All-wheel drive Ford cars and Broncos for rent at the Inn. 3 day/3 night packages from $149 per person, double occupancy. Includes lift tickets. Reservations only 1-800-344-2377 (U.S. and Canada). Information (406) 862-3825.

EDELWEISS CONDOMINIUMS: Sit right in the heart of Big Mountain Village, just steps from the lifts and activities. All villas include fireplace, complete kitchen (including range, refrigerator, dishwasher and microwave), plus cable TV-HBO, balconies and patios overlooking the majestic Rocky Mountains, huge whirlpool spa and sauna. $62 per person/per night, quad. Reservations: P.O. Box 846, Whitefish, MT 59937. Call (406) 862-5252, 1-800-228-8260 (Canada).

GROUSE MOUNTAIN LODGE: Located next door to The Big Mountain ski resort, it's a natural for both downhill and cross country skiing. This elegant 145 room lodge features an indoor pool, sauna, spas, dining, entertainment and conference facilities. Deluxe loft units with kitchenettes or jacuzzis are also available. Complimentary transportation is provided to The Big Mountain, Amtrak and Glacier Park Airport. Rates: $50-$125. Reservations: (406) 862-3000 or 1-800-321-8822 (U.S. and Canada).

HIBERNATION HOUSE: Known as The Big Mountain's only economy bed and breakfast hotel, featuring economical lodging in a warm comfortable alpine atmosphere. The Hibernation is just a short walk to the slopes with a groomed ski run right to the back door. Price includes breakfast. The Hibernation House is truly America's greatest ski vacation value! 5 day/5 night ski packages as low as $275, double occupancy. Custom packages available upon request. Call The Big Mountain at (406) 862-3511, 1-800-858-5439 (U.S.), 1-800-637-7547 (Canada).

KANDAHAR LODGE: Montana's premier mountain lodge, rustic yet elegant, is located in the village area at the base of The Big Mountain. European-style dining at the Cafe Kandahar. Two spa areas with saunas, jacuzzis, phones, color cable TV, laundry, beautiful sunken lobby with huge rock fireplace, free shuttle service. Kids 12 and under stay free. Ski to the door. It's what a ski lodge should be. Write Box 1659, Whitefish, MT 59937 or call (406) 862-6098.

MOUNTAIN HOLIDAY MOTEL: Located one mile south of downtown Whitefish, just 8 miles from The Big Mountain. Ski shuttle runs daily. Queen-size beds, color cable remote TV, large indoor pool, jacuzzi and sauna, guest laundry and hospitality room. Restaurants, theaters, shopping nearby. $47 per person/per night, double occupancy. Includes lift ticket and breakfast. Children under 12 stay free. Reservations: P.O. Box 302, Whitefish, MT 59937. Toll free 1-800-543-8064.

THE OUTLAW INN: After a great day of powder skiing at The Big Mountain come and enjoy the comforts of our luxurious hotel with indoor pools, jacuzzis, restaurant, lounge with live entertainment, mini casino and a warm, friendly staff. Located in Kalispell just 30 minutes from the lifts. Ski packages available for under $50 each/ per night, double occupancy. Toll free in Montana 1-800-247-9707 or in Canada 1-800-237-7445.

VACATION FARM INC.: Located 45 minutes from the base of Big Mountain. Fully furnished 5 bedrooms, 2 baths, modern kitchen, formal dining area, family room with fireplace, color TV, VCR and video library. Large garage. 80 acres for cross country skiing on ungroomed trails. $150 nightly for groups up to six. Reservations: 566 Creston Road, Kalispell, MT 59901 or call 1-800-882-8217 (U.S.) or (406) 756-8217 collect.

LODGING

LODGING AT BIG SKY

BEST WESTERN BUCK'S T-4 LODGE: Big Sky's only mid-priced, full-service lodging facility. Our lodge with its rustic log decor offers 39 deluxe guest rooms, two restaurants and lounges, game room, outdoor jacuzzis, snowmobile rental and free skier shuttle service to the lifts. Genuine hospitality, superb food and accommodations are a Buck's T-4 trademark. Kids under 12 stay free! Reservations: P.O. Box 279, Big Sky, MT 59716. (406) 995-4111. Out-of-state 1-800-822-4484.

GOLDEN EAGLE LODGING: Ski-in, ski-out units on the slopes and Meadow Village Condominiums 6 miles from the slopes—all offering panoramic mountain views, furnished kitchens, stone fireplaces and most having access to pools, saunas and jacuzzis. Golden Eagle offers comfortable and newly redecorated rooms. Outdoor pool and jacuzzi, restaurant and bar. Prices start at $85 per night for a one bedroom condominium and $42 per night in the lodge. P.O. Box 8, Big Sky, MT 59716, 1-800-548-4488, (406) 995-4800 in Montana.

HUNTLEY LODGE and the new **SHOSHONE CONDOMINIUM HOTEL:** The cornerstone of Big Sky Resort. These deluxe slopeside accommodations, as well as numerous condominiums, will make your ski vacation extra special. Swimming pools, jacuzzis, health club, gift shops, massage therapy. Ask about packages such as 2 nights/2 days of skiing, quad occupancy. First class at the Huntley Lodge, Monday-Tuesday package starts at $78 per person. Some restrictions apply. Condominiums and other packages available. 1-800-548-4486 (U.S.), 1-800-824-7767 (Montana), (406) 995-4211 (local).

MOUNTAIN LODGE AND ML CONDOMINIUM RENTALS: Discover Big Sky's original economy lodge on the mountain! Basic, comfortable accommodations only minutes from the lifts at a very affordable price. Amenities: Mountain Lodge Pizza and Pub Restaurant, jacuzzi, laundry facilities, cable TV lounge, ski waxing room, ski shuttle. Economy "ski and stay" packages available. 88 rooms, 4 per room maximum. Groups and families welcome. Economy to luxury condominiums, packages available. Reservations: P.O. Box 56, Big Sky, MT 59716. (406) 995-4560 or 1-800-831-3509.

RAINBOW RANCH BED & BREAKFAST: Located 5 miles south of Big Sky ski resort entrance. Just off Highway 191 nestled on the Gallatin River. 14 rooms, hot tub, large gathering room with fireplace, relaxed atmosphere. Main lodge $55, economy room $43/double occupancy. Ski, snowmobile or just relax. Groups welcomed. Home cooked meals can be arranged for groups. Call (406) 995-4132 or write Box 336, Big Sky, MT 59716.

TRIPLE CREEK REALTY & MANAGEMENT: Big Sky's most beautiful condominiums for your ski vacation. From our exquisite ski-in/ski-out Arrowhead condominiums with 3 bedrooms/ 3 baths and jacuzzi, to our completely redecorated, economical Hill studios, Triple Creek Realty guarantees you the very best accommodations in every tract at Big Sky. All of our properties feature in-house jacuzzis or recreation centers, cable TV, microwaves and ski shuttle. Write: P.O. Box 219, Big Sky, MT 59716. Call 1-800-548-4632 or (406) 995-4847.

LODGING NEAR BRIDGER BOWL

BEST WESTERN GRANTREE INN: Located just off the interstate, within a short 15-minute drive to Bridger Bowl and 45-minute drive to Big Sky ski resort. Offering true Montana hospitality with full-service dining, lounge and casino, indoor pool and jacuzzi, laundry facility plus 103 comfort-filled rooms. Special ski packages offered with discount coupons for Bridger Bowl. For reservations or information call 1-800-624-5865.

BRIDGER BOWL: Bridger Bowl offers a 12-month reservation service to all out-of-town skiers. On-mountain lodges, private homes, condominiums and bed & breakfast are available for rental on a limited basis. Many are ski accessible from the mountain. Reservations and ski package programs are also available with many fine motels and bed & breakfast establishments in the town of Bozeman, only 16 miles from Bridger Bowl. Call toll free 1-800-223-9609 (U.S.), (406) 587-2111 (Canada).

HOLIDAY INN OF BOZEMAN: Just minutes away from world-class skiing at Bridger Bowl and Big Sky ski areas and only 90 miles north of Yellowstone Country snowmobiling. Complimentary airport transportation brings you to Montana's finest accommodations including lobby, fireplace, pool, relaxing jacuzzi and our own famous Cantrell's Food and Spirits. Ski packages include discounted room and lift ticket coupons. Reservations: 5 Baxter Lane, Bozeman, MT 59715, (406) 587-4561 anytime.

TORCH & TOES BED & BREAKFAST: Just 20 minutes from Bridger Bowl. Three guest rooms with double occupancy, carriage house sleeps six and has a kitchen. Three blocks to Main Street with restaurants, shops and art galleries. $87/per couple/per night includes breakfast and lift ticket. Transportation from airport and to and from ski area may be arranged with City Taxi. Children under 10 stay free. Reservations: call (406) 586-7285.

WESTERN HERITAGE INN: Located 15 minutes from Bridger Bowl. King and queen guest rooms. Special rooms include whirlpool suites and one bedroom apartments with full kitchen, barbeque and dining room for the larger group. Start your day with a complimentary light breakfast. In the evening relax in our hot tub and steam room. $19 per person/per night, quad includes $5 discount coupon. Write: 1200 E. Main, Bozeman, MT 59715. Call 1-800-341-8000 (U.S. and Canada) or (406) 586-8534.

LODGING FOR DISCOVERY BASIN

FAIRMONT HOT SPRINGS RESORT: Just 32 miles east of Discovery Basin, is Montana's favorite family resort. Affordable rates plus all the amenities. After a day on the slopes indulge in all that makes Fairmont so inviting; dining room, coffee shop, lounge with live entertainment, two olympic-size pools, one inside and one outside, plus two soaking pools all filled with natural hot springs water. Also available sleigh rides and dog sled rides. Reservations: Fairmont Hot Springs Resort, 1500 Fairmont Road, Anaconda, MT 59711. In Montana 1-800-332-3272. Outside Montana 1-800-443-2381.

LODGING

LODGING NEAR LOST TRAIL POWDER MOUNTAIN

TOWNHOUSE INNS OF HAMILTON: Open in July 1989, offering beautifully appointed rooms with queen and king-size beds and remote color cable TV. Guest laundry, sauna, jacuzzi and fitness room available. Town Pump convenience store, car wash and 4B's 24-hour restaurant next door fill your needs for fuel, groceries, sundries and meals. Rooms from $34-$48. Children under 12 stay free. Write or phone for ski packages and reservations: 1115 North 1st, Hwy. 93, Hamilton, MT 59840. Call collect (406) 363-6600.

LODGING NEAR MAVERICK MOUNTAIN

TOWNHOUSE INNS OF DILLON: Just 30 minutes from Maverick Mountain ski area. Offers clean, comfortable guest rooms with queen-size beds and color cable TV. After a day of skiing you can relax in our indoor heated pool. Coin-operated guest laundry is provided for your convenience. $43 (4 people per room), children under 12 stay free. Write or phone for ski packages and reservations: P.O. Box 666, Dillon, MT 59725. Call collect (406) 683-6831.

LODGING FOR RED LODGE MOUNTAIN

BEST WESTERN LUPINE INN: Located 6 miles from Red Lodge Mountain by car or shuttle bus. Walking distance to most downtown shops and restaurants. Packages available through Red Lodge Mountain. Indoor pool, jacuzzi, meeting room and ski wax room. Reservations: call (406) 446-1321 or Best Western 1-800-528-1234.

CREEKSIDE COTTAGES CONDOS: New luxury condos located on golf course in Red Lodge and just 15 minutes to Red Lodge Mountain. Studio or 2-bedroom units, queen beds, kitchenettes, fireplaces, decks, cable TV, large baths and completely furnished. Cross country skiing nearby $65 to $115/maximum of 8/two night minimum. Reservations confirmed by advance deposit. Reservations: 2108 Broadwater, Billings, MT 59102. Call (406) 656-0510.

PITCHER GUEST HOUSE: A non-host, refurbished (circa 1903) two-story home located near historic downtown Red Lodge. Accommodations include 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths, completely furnished, lovely linens, full kitchen, laundry facilities, wood-burning stove, cable TV, phone and more. 7 miles from ski lift. Also available, PITCHER TOWNHOUSE: A newer, two-story log condo with comparable accommodations; 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Reservations confirmed by advance deposit, three nights minimum preferred. Reservations: P.O. Box 3450, Red Lodge, MT 59068, (406) 446-2859.

ROCK CREEK RESORT: Located 20 minutes from Red Lodge Mountain. Combines Beartooth Lodge, The Grizzly Condos and Old Piney Dell restaurant to create the perfect ski holiday. Gracious accommodations and the finest cuisine, indoor swimming, jacuzzis, laundry, shuttle service, ski packages, cross country skiing, hiking. Price range $47 to $95. Four miles south of Red Lodge on U.S. Hwy 212. For reservations write Route 2, Box 3500, Red Lodge, MT 59068 or call (406) 446-1111.

SUPER 8 MOTEL AAA: Red Lodge's newest motel, offering comfortable and super clean accommodations, 44 units, outdoor deck area with enclosed hot tub, free continental breakfast, cable TV, HBO, ESPN, gameroom, guest laundry, non-smoking rooms. Low/high season range; one bed $29.88-$36.88; two beds $37.88-$44.88; group rates available; low season specials. Reservations: 1223 South Broadway, Red Lodge, MT 59068, (406) 446-2288, toll free 1-800-848-8888.

RED LODGE CENTRAL RESERVATIONS: One call—does it all. Rarely does one number do so many things. With one call you can make arrangements for lodging, lift tickets, ski rentals, ski school ... you name it! We custom build packages to suit your needs. And any bookings of three days or more made with lodging will get you discounted lift tickets. Some special packages will save you even more! Call 1-800-444-8977 in U.S. and Canada.

THE MONTANA GUEST LODGE: Offers nostalgic charm, rustic elegance and warm, comfortable lodging in a renovated, historical building in the heart of Red Lodge. Very competitive group rates, 8 bedrooms, 6½ baths with clawfoot tubs and showers, lobby, kitchen and more. Rent all or part, each with separate entrances. The Montana Lodge is perfect for all gatherings and ski vacations, with free ski shuttle service at the front door. Stay where Bill Cody, Calamity Jane and Jeremiah Johnson slept at the Montana Lodge. Reservations: P.O. Box 746, Red Lodge, MT 59068, (406) 446-1305.

LODGING NEAR SNOWBOWL

4B's INN: Nicest hot tub in Missoula. Ski packages beginning at $24.95 includes ski ticket, lodging and choice of 4 ski areas. 4B's Restaurant next door. Entertainment and amenities nearby. For reservations and/or snow report call 1-800-272-9500 or write 3803 Brooks, Missoula, MT 59801.

RESERVE STREET INN: Closest and friendliest lodging to Montana Snowbowl, at the foot of the mountain and just 15 minutes from Marshall family ski area. Offers 113 beautiful rooms on Grant Creek with full services: spa, sauna, laundry, in-room jacuzzis, Jokers Wild Restaurant and Lounge, keno, Montana poker plus skier's specials! $34 per person/per night/double occupancy, plus room tax. Includes lift ticket. Write: 4825 N. Reserve St., Missoula, MT 59802. Call toll free 1-800-221-2057. In Canada call collect (406) 721-0990.

SOUTHGATE INN: 15 miles from lift, 3 blocks to mall, surrounded by restaurants, casinos and entertainment. Offers hot tub, exercise room, cable TV/HBO, continental breakfast, courtesy van. Ski package includes lodging & lift: $32/per person/double occupancy, single queen; $34, double queens; family suite, sleeps six, $25/per person. Reservations: 3530 Brooks Street, Missoula, MT 59801. Toll free in Montana 1-800-533-2250, out-of-state 1-800-247-2616. Call collect from Canada.

SUPER 8 MOTEL: The Missoula Super 8 Motel is 20 minutes from Snowbowl ski area and 2 hours from Lost Trail ski area. Closest Missoula motel to Nightingale nordic ski area. Ski packages start at $23/person. Includes room, lift, continental breakfast and usage of nearby health club. Motel is close to several restaurants, theatres and Southgate Mall. For reservations and ski packages call (406) 251-2255. Write Super 8 Motel, 3901 South Brooks, Missoula, MT 59801.

BED AND BREAKFASTS

BED & BREAKFAST WESTERN ADVENTURE can make reservations at selected and inspected B&Bs throughout Montana's major ski areas. Lounge around a beautiful log lodge with a jacuzzi or curl up in front of a cozy fireplace with a cup of something warm, good conversation and new friends. Free brochure. For B&B directory send $5 to P.O. Box 20972 WG, Billings, MT 59104-0972 or call (406) 259-7993.

GETTING HERE'S A BREEZE

All major Montana cities are served daily by commercial airlines while passenger rail service stops in the heart of northern ski country. Some resorts are just minutes from the airport or station, others a short drive on scenic highways.

AMTRAK: Daily east- and west-bound trains stop at Libby, Whitefish, West Glacier, Essex, East Glacier, Browning, Cut Bank, Shelby, Havre, Malta, Glasgow and Wolf Point. 1-800-872-7245.

Continental Airlines: Serving Billings, Bozeman and Missoula. 1-800-525-0280.

Delta and The Delta Connection: Daily flights to Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Great Falls, Helena, Kalispell and Missoula. 1-800-221-1212.

Horizon Air: Regular flights to Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Great Falls, Helena, Kalispell and Missoula. 1-800-547-9308.

Northwest Airlines: Service to Billings, Bozeman, Great Falls and Missoula. 1-800-225-2525.

United Airlines: Regular flights to Billings, Great Falls, Kalispell and Missoula. 1-800-241-6522.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THE SURE CURE FOR CABIN FEVER!

Montana's winter season comes alive with a variety of celebrations, both on and off the slopes. From speedskating to snow golfing, obstacle races to painted faces, there's something for everyone. Here is just a small sampling of what Montana has to offer. For a complete listing of winter events, be sure and check with local ski areas. Don't let cabin fever get you down—head out the door and join the fun!

DISCOVER MONTANA ON CROSS COUNTRY SKIS: December 9. Free skiing sponsored by the Montana Cross Country Ski Areas Association. Participating areas include Big Mountain Nordic Center, Covered Wagon Ranch, Izaak Walton Inn, Lone Mountain Ranch, Nightingale Nordic, Sundance Lodge and West Yellowstone Chamber.

WESTERN WINTER CARNIVAL WEEK: January 12-13, Big Sky. A weekend of fun races, snow golfing, ice sculpturing and casino night, topped off with lots of prizes.

WINTERNATIONAL SPORTS FESTIVAL: February 9-March 17, Butte and Anaconda. More than a month dedicated to a variety of sports including speedskating, snowmobile races, wrestling, boxing and 5 & 10K running races. Don't miss the JOHN MOLISH SKI RACES (annual children's ski races tied into the festival), March 2-3 at Discovery Basin.

RACE TO THE SKY: February 9, Helena. Cheer top mushers and their beloved dogs in the longest course (500 miles) in the lower 48 states.

BENNETT-SUBARU KIDS CARNIVAL: February 24, Showdown ski area. Face painting, snowball throwing obstacle race, balloons and prizes.

NATIONAL GELANDE JUMP CHAMPIONSHIPS: March 2-3, Montana Snowbowl. Ski jumping similar to nordic jumping in the Olympics but with alpine equipment.

WINTER KARNIVAL KRAZEE: March 2, Red Lodge Mountain. Costume contest, treasure hunt, live music, fireman's race plus the famous Kardboard Klassic featuring crafts made of cardboard, tape and glue!

PINHEAD CLASSIC: March 9, Bridger Bowl. Major telemark competition attracting skiers from throughout the region.

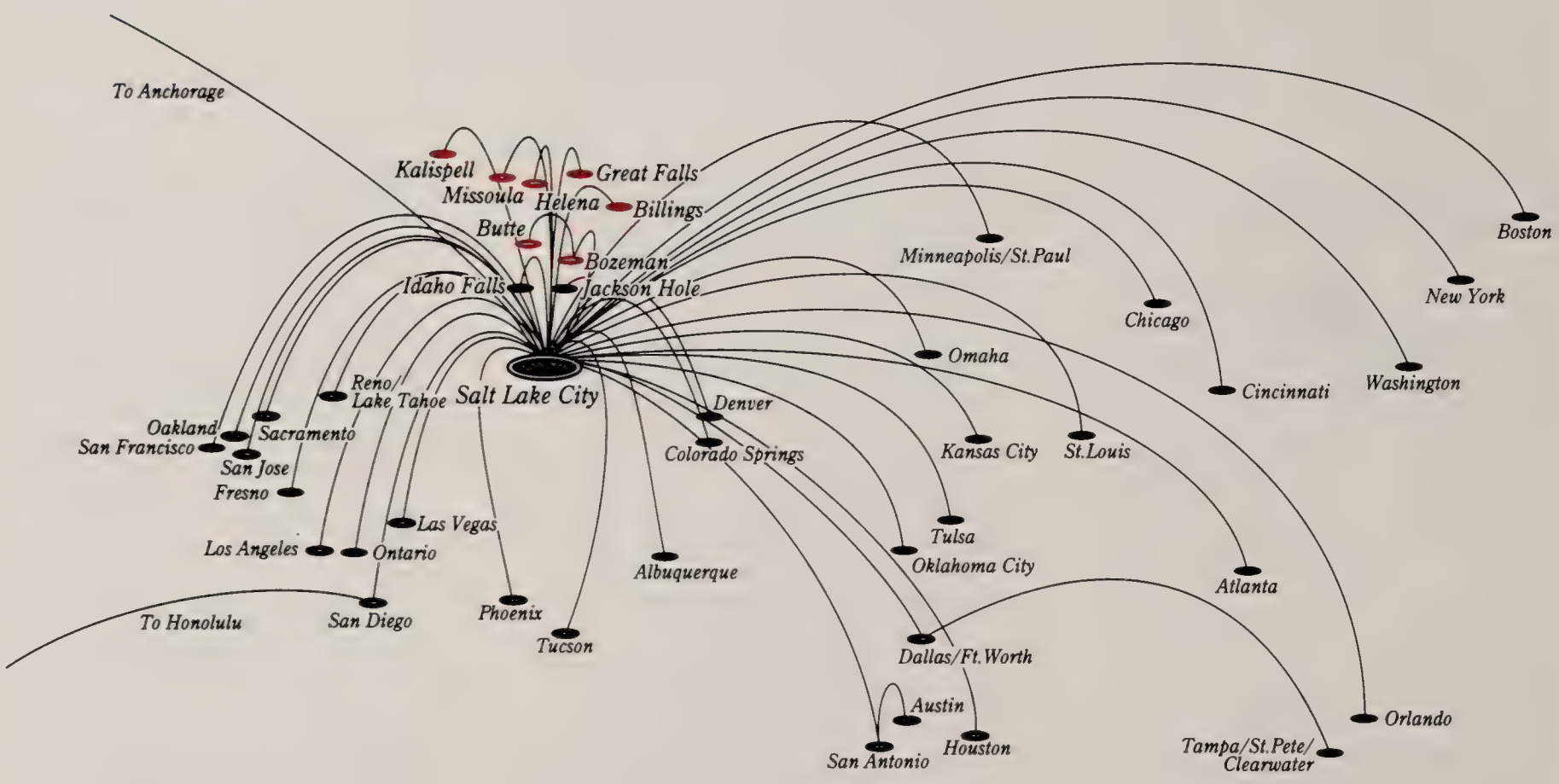
DOUG BETTERS WINTER CLASSIC: March 14-17, The Big Mountain. NFL football players and Hollywood celebrities get together for 3 days of fun events—barbecues, banquets, auctions and a human sled race.

WARM MOUNTAIN MEMORIES - DELTA TO MONTANA

Now you don't have to move mountains to get to your Montana ski vacation. Because when it comes to Montana, Delta and The Delta Connection® offer flights to virtually every ski area in the state.

Whether it's Bozeman, Billings or Butte, our convenient service is available from almost every city in the U.S. And with a number of daily flights to Kalispell, Missoula, Helena and Great Falls, you'll have a great choice of departure times.

It's all part of Delta's continuing commitment to being the world's number one airline to ski country. So if you're heading to Montana this season, call Delta toll-free at 1-800-221-1212. And see why Delta beats the others cold.



Service between some cities may be via one-stop service.

DELTA
We Love To Fly And It Shows.®

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GO SKIING WITH THE EXPERTS

Continental can fly you to Bozeman from over 140 cities around the country. And we're the only one with Grand Destinations℠ packages to Big Sky that offers a Double Your Money Back Guarantee. Which makes us the experts.

Every Grand Destinations ski vacation includes airfare, lodging, lift tickets plus our guarantee. If any component or service is not delivered as promised, we'll refund double the difference between the service or component delivered and that promised as long as it's within our reasonable operational control. Just file a claim within 60 days of trip completion.

So this season, ski Big Sky, snowcoach through nearby Yellowstone Park or simply enjoy the winter wonderlands of Billings and Missoula. Call Continental today at 1-800-525-0280 or for Continental's Grand Destinations ski vacation packages call 1-800-634-5555. And see how the experts do it.

CONTINENTAL

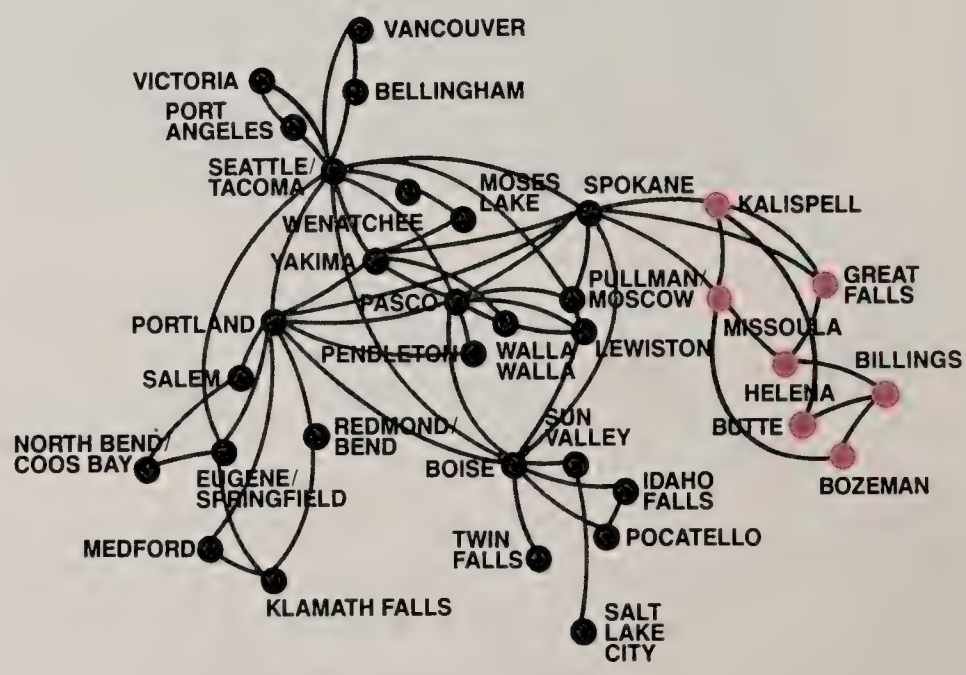
Working to be your choice.

MONTANA STATE BIRD

Montana is our territory. Horizon Air has more flights to more cities in the Northwest than any other airline. Thirty-four cities in all, including our two newest ones; Bozeman and Butte, Montana.

From our Spokane and Billings hubs, we offer the most flights throughout Montana along with convenient connections and low fares with Alaska and Northwest airlines. Plus, we offer low-cost Montana vacation packages, including airfare.

So if you're bound for Montana or anywhere in the Northwest, fly there on Horizon Air. We know the territory. For reservations, see your Travel Agent or call 1-800-547-9308.



HORIZON AIR

Horizon Air operates Alaska Airlines (AS) flight numbers 2000-2999 and Northwest Airlines (NW) flight numbers 2000-2399.

THE BIG SKY COUNTRY IS NORTHWEST TERRITORY

Let Northwest fly you to Montana where you can relax and enjoy limitless winter-time fun. Skiing at Big Sky, snowmobiling at Yellowstone or any other of your favorite winter activities are all possible in the peaceful, uncrowded setting of Montana.

Northwest, with more than 50 years of experience in Montana, will make planning your winter vacation an effortless task. After all we have been doing it the longest. No one knows the Big Sky better than Northwest.

Call your travel agent or Northwest at 1-800-225-2525 and make your plans for a Montana winterland vacation.

NORTHWEST AIRLINES

W. Brewster photo

Cross country

SHARE THE TRAIL WITH A DIFFERENT CROWD.

Winter in Montana is more than a downhill experience. Cross country is an art here—a warm, winter palette of wilderness, wildlife, backcountry solitude and snow-white peace.

In Montana you can set your own pace. Choose from miles of expertly groomed nordic trails or strike out on your own in the powder perfect beauty of two national parks, 10 national forests or 12 national wilderness areas.

We'll complete the experience with activities and accommodations to warm you in body and spirit—moonlight sleighrides, snow coach tours, gourmet snow picnics, rustic guest ranches, hot springs lodges and full-service resorts.

Come to Montana to see how good it can be!

MONTANA CROSS COUNTRY SKI AREAS ASSOCIATION

The members of the Montana Cross Country Ski Areas Association are dedicated to improving and enhancing the sport of cross country skiing in Montana. They invite you to come and try their quality resorts from Glacier Park to Yellowstone. They know you'll be back.

Some of these resorts are also members of the Cross Country Ski Areas of America which promotes, enhances and develops the wonderful sport of cross country skiing on a national scale. Look for these logos to find members of these associations.

CCSAA

J. Arthur photo

◄ Skating and tracked trails, world-class resorts, watchable wildlife and mile after mile of sun-filled meadows and mountains make Montana the perfect cross country destination / B. Woodward photo

S. Bly photo

YELLOWSTONE COUNTRY

For maps & information about skiing on public lands in Yellowstone Country:
Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190, (307) 344-7381; Gallatin National Forest, P.O. Box 130, Federal Bldg., Bozeman, MT 59771, (406) 587-6702; Beartooth Ranger District, Custer National Forest, Rt. 2, Box 3420, Red Lodge, MT 59068, (406) 446-2103.

Abundant wildlife, steaming geyser basins, miles of ski trails and back-country touring make Yellowstone National Park an ideal cross country ski destination. But the Park is just the starting point in an unforgettable Yellowstone Country tour of winter.

In the neighborhood are world-class downhill and nordic resorts, extensive public and private cross country trail systems and unlimited backcountry ski touring. There are small, quiet lodges in hidden valleys, guided ski and snowcoach tours and lovely surprises like moonlight sleigh rides.

In addition to two million pristine acres inside the Park, there are another two million in the adjacent Gallatin National Forest, which includes the 25 km Rendezvous trail system, intermittently groomed trails in the Bridger Range and the Absaroka-Beartooth wilderness and downhill ski resorts at Bridger Bowl and Big Sky. Neighboring is the Custer National Forest, which encompasses a portion of the Absaroka-Beartooth wilderness and the popular Red Lodge Mountain ski area. Yellowstone Country also boasts the nation's most extensive snowmobile trail system completely separate from the ski trails.

It may be the Park that entices you to Yellowstone Country but the snow, services, people and unlimited possibilities will bring you back again.

BOHART RANCH CROSS-COUNTRY SKI CENTER

Bohart Ranch, located 16 miles NE of Bozeman on Highway 86 in Bridger Canyon, adjacent to Bridger Bowl ski area, offers 30 km of groomed and tracked trails on nationally and internationally recognized cross country ski terrain. Trails are groomed for both diagonal and skating techniques. Facilities include a Biathlon range for year-round training and competition. Services include rentals, lessons, snacks and warming cabin. Trails are open in summer for walking, running, mountain biking, horseback riding and summer biathlon which combines running and shooting. Bohart Ranch trails offer quality skiing for both the recreational and competitive skier. Our scenic trails in historic Bridger Canyon let our guests experience a bit of Old Montana.

For More Information: Write Bohart Ranch Cross-Country Ski Center, 16621 Bridger Canyon Road, Bozeman, MT 59715 or phone (406) 586-9070.

J. Arthur photo

YELLOWSTONE COUNTRY

CLIFF LAKE LODGE

Cliff Lake Lodge, tucked away next to scenic Cliff Lake and bordering the Beaverhead National Forest, lies 4 miles off Highway 87, just 30 miles from Yellowstone National Park and 45 miles south of Ennis. The secluded lodge is part of the Neely Ranch and sits 6,200 feet in altitude, below the craggy peaks of the Horn Mountains. In the quiet solitude of winter, skiers have access to over 45 km of groomed and track set trails from mid-December to the end of March, plus miles of magnificent backcountry skiing. Cliff Lake Lodge has excellent access to several scenic remote lakes, including Hidden and Elk Lakes. The wildlife is abundant ... skiers may get a glimpse of deer, elk, moose, coyotes and more, often in the same day! Birds thrive in the area and in late winter, bald and golden eagles, trumpeter swans, ducks and geese may be seen on the lakes. Fish for rainbow and cutthroat trout in Cliff Lake year around. Accommodations include 3 comfortable guest rooms in the lodge and 2 winterized cabins, with family style meals provided. Packages available.

For More Information: Write Cliff Lake Lodge, Box 573, Cameron, MT 59720 or phone (406) 682-4982.

COVERED WAGON RANCH

The best cross country skiing Yellowstone has to offer ... from the Gallatin Meadows to Specimen Creek. The Covered Wagon Ranch is just a few miles from the quiet and spectacular northwest corner of Yellowstone Park and the most reliable snow in the northern Rockies. The ranch, situated in Montana's Gallatin Canyon, is bordered by the wilderness of the Madison and Gallatin ranges. Warm log cabins with private bath, central dining for family style meals and a recreation hall with fireplace blend well with the wildlands setting. The ranch offers a rustic, yet comfortable environment. Most important, you'll enjoy the finest back country skiing in the west ... both tracked cross country and ski touring. Trails through deep forested canyons, open meadows, rolling terrain and mountain slopes for telemarking—it's all available. Transportation available to Big Sky ski area (23 miles) for downhill skiing. Skating pond and snowshoeing at the ranch. Snow coach trips through Yellowstone, by arrangement. Accommodating guests since 1925. Ranch guests meet at Bozeman, Montana airport. Full American plan. Please join us.

For More Information: Write Covered Wagon Ranch, 34035 Gallatin Road, Box 224, Gallatin Gateway, MT 59730 or phone (406) 995-4237.

GOLDEN EAGLE LODGING AT BIG SKY

Located at Big Sky Ski and Summer Resort, Golden Eagle is 45 miles south of Bozeman and neighbor to Yellowstone National Park. Out your front door you will find access to 70 km of an extensive cross country trail system. Lone Mountain Guest Ranch, premier cross country ski area of the northwest, offers a variety of terrain for beginner to expert. Or ski 55 miles of exhilarating downhill on 36 slopes over 1,000 acres. Our pinnacle peak, Lone Mountain, rises 11,166 feet with a vertical drop of 2,800 feet. Golden Eagle offers the largest selection of luxury condominiums and homes in Big Sky. Conveniently located near the cross country track system, slopes, dining, shops and entertainment, Golden Eagle condos have panoramic mountain views, furnished kitchens and stone fireplaces. Some have access to pools, saunas and jacuzzis. Golden Eagle Lodge offers comfortable and newly remodeled rooms, a perfect choice for those on a budget. Outdoor pool and jacuzzi, restaurant and bar. Prices start at $85/night for a one bedroom condo and $42/night in the lodge. Fly Delta, Northwest or Continental to Bozeman.

For More Information: Write Golden Eagle, Box 8, Big Sky, MT 59716, or phone 1-800-548-4488, (406) 995-4800 in Montana.

T. Christie photo

YELLOWSTONE COUNTRY

STAGE COACH INN

We are located at the West entrance to Yellowstone National Park—winter's pristine paradise. At the Stage Coach Inn we offer cross country skiing from our front door. Take a snowcoach tour into Yellowstone for unlimited cross country skiing. For a change of pace, rent a snowmobile and travel on your own schedule.

Whatever your choice, the Stage Coach Inn is the perfect winter hideaway. Relax in our comfortable, western decor rooms. Curl up with a book in our historic, knotty pine lobby by the fireplace. Soak in an oversized spa after a long day on the trails. Tempt your appetite with entrees prepared by our nationally renowned chef. Linger over a hot toddy in the lounge.

We can arrange individual lodging, cross country skiing or snowmobiling packages for you. Lodging prices start at $54 for two people. We also offer group rates!

Join us. Just for the fun of it!

For More Information: Write The Stage Coach Inn, P.O. Box 160, West Yellowstone, MT 59758 or phone 1-800-842-2882, (406) 646-7381.

WADE LAKE RESORT

Ski on 45 km of groomed and track-set trails (with some skating lanes), plus miles of beautiful backcountry skiing throughout this area of the Beaverhead National Forest. Marked trails designed for skiers of all ability levels. Naturalist guided ski trips available. Enjoy the exceptional scenery as you share the area with the winter wildlife. Trumpeter swans, bald eagles, ducks and geese frequent the open waters of the spring-fed lake. Elk, moose and deer winter in the Wade and Cliff Lake areas and are often seen from the trails and around the resort. Fly fish the Madison River year-round or the open water on Wade Lake through February, for rainbows and German browns. Accommodations in 3 cozy cabins, family-style gourmet meals in the lodge. The resort is located six miles off Highway 287 and the Madison River, 35 miles from Yellowstone National Park. Transportation to resort via snowcat from highway. Groups from 2-6 will find the most unique nordic experience in Montana at Wade Lake Resort.

For More Information: Write Wade Lake Resort, Box 107, Cameron, MT 59720 or phone (406) 682-7560.

YELLOWSTONE ALPEN GUIDES

Yellowstone National Park in winter is an experience never to be forgotten. The impatient crowds and harried pace of summer are gone. Large numbers of animals have slowly moved down from the high country to seek shelter in the thermal basins. Now is the time to see Yellowstone at its best! Yellowstone Alpen Guides offers daily tours for the sightseer and skier aboard warm, comfortable, 10-passenger snowcoaches. This little company offers that personalized touch so you get the most out of your trip into "nature's warm winter heart." Daily from West Yellowstone offering scenic tours, guided ski tours, skier drop-offs, charters and out-of-the-park ski tours. Multi-day cross country ski tours include 2 nights at Old Faithful and 2 nights at the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone yurt camp. Specializing in group and custom tours as well as tours for families and individuals.

For More Information: Contact Yellowstone Alpen Guides, P.O. Box 518M, West Yellowstone, MT 59758 or phone (406) 646-9591.

Alan & Sandy Carey photo

YELLOWSTONE COUNTRY

LONE MOUNTAIN RANCH

A winter vacation at the Ranch means dependable snow, the unique opportunity to experience Yellowstone's wildlife in its natural habitat and that "extra special" Montana warmth which draws guests back here year after year. The spectacular beauty surrounding the Ranch serves as a backdrop for an extensive trail system designed to please skiers of all ability levels. Cozy cabins, full-service ski facilities and a beautiful new dining lodge featuring the freshest cuisine cooked to perfection make a Lone Mountain Ranch stay the winter vacation of a lifetime.

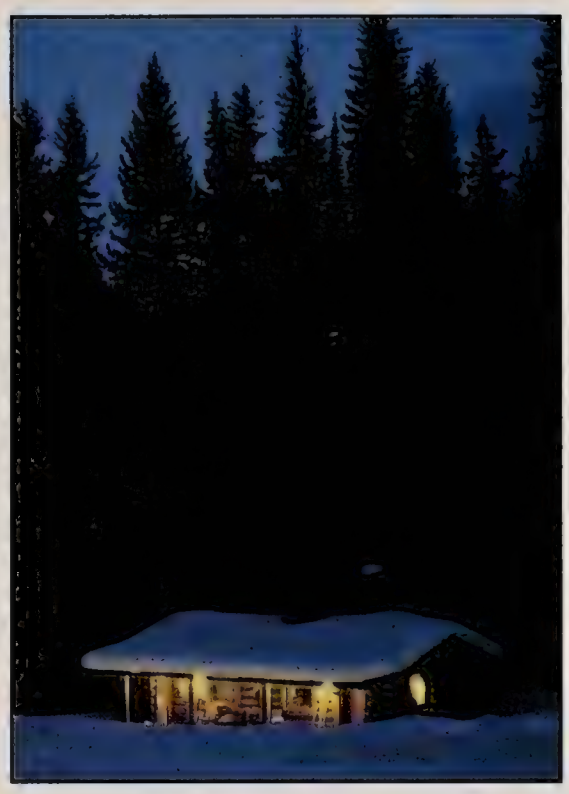
Location: 40 miles south of Bozeman, 20 miles northwest of Yellowstone National Park at Big Sky. Fly Northwest, Delta or Continental to Bozeman with free pickup from the airport. Special airfares available.

Season: Ski from early December to mid-April.

Trails: 75 km of groomed, tilled and tracked trails designed to accommodate all levels of ability. Tracked for both traditional skiing and skating.

Guided Ski Tours: Our naturalist ski guides lead many types of day ski tours into the backcountry of Yellowstone. Skiing through steaming geyser basins past wintering herds of elk and bison is a truly unforgettable experience.

Nordic Ski Shop: Our complete cross country ski shop provides both retail and rental equipment and service. A wide selection of ski clothing, accessories and gifts are available.



Instruction: Professional ski guides offer instruction for all levels of skiing.

Vacation Packages: Comfortable ranch-style accommodations house up to 60 guests in individual log cabins with private baths, electric heat and either woodstoves or fireplaces. One-week package (7 nights) includes 3 complete meals per day, lodging, trail fees, airport transportation, a sleigh ride dinner, gourmet on-the-trail buffet lunch, evening programs and our outdoor hot tub at $798 per person, double occupancy. Reservations are required.

Day Skier Services: A day trail pass accesses our entire trail system. Rental ski packages, nordic ski shop, hearty skier buffet lunches, ranch gourmet dinners, lessons, tours and old-fashioned sleigh ride dinners are all available.

Sleigh Ride Dinners: Step back into a piece of Montana history with an old-fashioned sleigh ride dinner. A sleigh drawn by draft horses winds through the winter woods to a beautiful log cabin where the aroma of homemade bread greets you at the door. A gourmet prime rib dinner cooked in a century-old wood cookstove and musical entertainment help complete a perfect winter evening. Reservations required.

Events: St. Nick's Nordic Festival December 9, is a family fun day with games, relays, sleigh rides, free nordic instruction, use of ski trails and equipment. The Viking's Revenge citizen ski race is in January.

For Reservations: It is recommended that you make your plans as early as possible so we can meet your specific needs.

For More Information: Write Lone Mountain Ranch, P.O. Box 69, Big Sky, MT 59716 for a free brochure or phone (406) 995-4644 Ext. 120, FAX (406) 995-4670.

R. Hamilton Smith photo

CCSAA

YELLOWSTONE

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Winter may be the most magical season of all in Yellowstone. In winter, the park is transformed by snow into another world. Steam billows from the geyser basins to drift in eerie clouds through frosty air. Wildlife is abundant. The park's smaller streams and rivers are sheathed in ice and waterfalls form great arches of icicles. You haven't seen Yellowstone until you've seen Yellowstone in winter.

Location: Yellowstone National Park located in southcentral Montana and the northwestern corner of Wyoming. Fly to Bozeman, TW Recreational Services, Inc. buses service Mammoth Hot Springs, 80 miles away.

Season: Mammoth Hot Springs, December 20 through March 3; Old Faithful Snow Lodge, December 14 through March 11.

Average Annual Snowfall: 150 inches.

Average Park Elevation: 7,000 feet is the average elevation with mountain highs of 11,000 feet and lower areas at 5,800 feet. Mammoth Hot Springs is 6,300 feet above sea level.

Total Park Area: 3,400 square miles of protected park lands provide vistas of indescribable beauty—thermal features, wild animals, mountains, lakes, rivers and expansive views. "Have we got the country to cross!"

Trails: Groomed and tracked trails along with skied-in tracks. Miles and miles of backcountry trails.

Guide Service: All-day and half-day guide service available. Two person minimum.

Ski Instruction: Two-hour group lesson offered every morning and afternoon. Private lessons also available. Reservations recommended.

Rentals: Skis, boots, poles and gaiters for rent by half day and full day. Snowmobile rentals and snowcoach tours also.

Facilities: Mammoth Hot Springs is a vintage facility with all rooms housed in a 4-story wing and Aspen Lodge. Beautiful newly renovated dining room, fast-food facility and lounge. No phones or TVs. A great getaway spot.

Package: 7 days/6 nights, $210/person, double occupancy. Includes 6 nights, room with a bath, Mammoth Hot Springs hotel, 2 of those nights optional at Old Faithful Snow Lodge, based on availability; welcome wine and cheese plate on arrival; waké-up coffee or tea delivered to your door daily; morning newspaper (when available); snowcoach tour to the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone or round-trip snowcoach to Old Faithful Snow Lodge; half day of ice skating, guest's choice of day; discount coupons on ski rentals and guided ski tours (minimum of 4 people for tours.)

Dates: Package available Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel, December 20 through March 3.

For Reservations: Write TW Recreational Services, Inc., Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190 or call (307) 344-7311. Authorized concessionaire of the National Park Service.

For More Information: See your travel agent or write: TW Recreational Services, Inc., Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190 or phone (307) 344-7311.

TW Recreational Services, Inc. photos

YELLOWSTONE COUNTRY TOURING

YELLOWSTONE TOUR & TRAVEL

Add a day or more in Yellowstone Country to your ski vacation. Or make it your winter destination. Yellowstone in winter—an unbelievable fairyland. And there's no better way to enjoy it all than on a snowmobile. From the geysers and animals in Yellowstone to the deep powder snow of the surrounding national forest, it's a feast for your eyes and senses. Come. Enjoy.

Location: West Yellowstone is the west entrance to Yellowstone National Park, located on Montana's southern border near Wyoming and Idaho. Fly to Bozeman. Convenient daily bus service available for the 90-mile drive through beautiful Gallatin Canyon.

Season: Yellowstone National Park is open to snowmobile traffic (no automobiles allowed except for short northern route) from mid-December through early March. Snowmobiling in the surrounding national forests is available earlier and later.

Total Area: Snowmobiles are permitted only on groomed trails within Yellowstone's 3,400 square miles. In the national forests, riding is allowed both on and off trails on thousands of additional square miles.

Trails: Yellowstone National Park has more than 200 miles of well-marked and patrolled trails. An additional 250 miles outside of the park in Montana interconnect with hundreds of miles groomed by the state of Idaho.

Yellowstone Tour & Travel photo

Guide Service: Full day at $130 per day, limit of 15 snowmobiles per guide.

Instruction: Non-snowmobilers are encouraged to come! Machine operation is simple. Full instruction given to each person renting a snowmobile.

Daily Rentals: Arctic Cat Panthers and Jags as well as Yamaha electric-start Ovations. Some Prowlers and Phazers are also available at additional fees. Each with electric handwarmers and luggage racks. Rental rate includes a full tank of fuel. Rates are $69 per day, single riding, and $79 per day, double riding. Midweek discount (except during holiday periods) offered to guests having a valid ski lift ticket from any Montana ski area. Daily round-trip bus service operates from Big Sky ski resort, 50 miles north. Snowmobile clothing is also available for rent. Outfit includes snowmobile suit, boots, gloves, goggles and stocking pullover face mask at $12 per day. Helmets are available (not required) on a first-come/first-serve basis at $4 per day. All rates subject to 3% tax.

Packages: Full snowmobile packages, beginning day of your choice, include lodging, use of snowmobile, guide service, rental snowmobile clothing and one prime rib dinner. Packages vary in length from 4 nights/3 days to 7 nights/6 days. Overnight options away from Yellowstone are available. For reservations, contact your travel agent or Yellowstone Tour & Travel.

Facilities: Comfortable accommodations in West Yellowstone at Yellowstone Tour & Travel's Ambassador Quality Inn, Big Western Pine Motel and Three Bear Lodge. Fully carpeted rooms feature color/cable television, room phones and full baths. Each property has an indoor whirlpool. The Rustler's Roost Restaurant at the Big Western Pine Motel and the Three Bear Restaurant have excellent family-style dining and lounges.

For More Information: Write Yellowstone Tour & Travel, P.O. Box 369, West Yellowstone, MT 59758 or call 1-800-221-1151.

N. Mishler photo

GLACIER COUNTRY

W. Mumford photo

A hush settles over the high country as winter transforms the peaks of Glacier National Park into a crown of brilliant white light. Elk and deer move down to their winter range while mountain goats keep their lofty perch above. More than a dozen ski trails and a million acres of exquisite alpine splendor await the winter visitor to Glacier. Beyond the Park's borders lie treasured wildernesses like the Great Bear and the Bob Marshall, plus millions of acres of national forest offering unlimited ski touring, plus miles of trails that can be explored on your own or with a guide. A good way to get acquainted with this vast network of public lands is by skiing developed trail systems at Lolo Pass winter sports area southwest of Missoula and the Essex trail complex at the southern tip of Glacier National Park.

Montana's mountainous Glacier Country will capture your heart with its cozy resorts and private trail systems that cater exclusively to cross country skiers. Stay at an historic railroad inn and ski with an expert guide through the beauty of Glacier. Ski the Swan Valley from the comfort of a log lodge or your own private cabin. Or visit one of Glacier Country's popular downhill resorts where nordic skiers are welcome and telemarkers are challenged.

There are skating and tracked trails expertly groomed for cross country skiers, just outside of Missoula. For the explorer, there are ski mountaineering trips into the Ten Lakes scenic area, in extreme northwestern Montana, with unforgettable views of Glacier Park and the Canadian Rockies.

Glacier Country is a magnificent alpine park and so much more. Its unique combination of mountains and wilderness, culture and comforts, make it an ideal destination for cross country skiers and all who seek the tonic of winter in a pristine environment.

For maps & information about skiing on public lands in Glacier Country: Superintendent, Glacier National Park, West Glacier, MT 59936, (406) 888-5441; Bitterroot National Forest, 316 N. Third St., Hamilton, MT 59840, (406) 363-3131; Flathead National Forest, 1935 Third Ave. E., Kalispell, MT 59901, (406) 755-5401; Kootenai National Forest, 506 Hwy 2 West, Libby, MT 59923, (406) 293-6211; Lewis & Clark National Forest, P.O. Box 869, Great Falls, MT 59403, (406) 791-7700; Lolo National Forest, Bldg. 24, Ft. Missoula, Missoula, MT 59801, (406) 329-3705.

THE BIG MOUNTAIN NORDIC CENTER

As part of Montana's largest destination ski resort, The Big Mountain Nordic Center offers professionally designed, Olympic quality trails for any ability level. Rick Kapala, U.S. Western Regional Development Coordinator said, "The Big Mountain is one of the fastest growing Cross Country Sites in North America. It's just a natural!" The Big Mountain's selection for the 1990 U.S. Cross Country Ski Team spring training and equipment test camp marks a trend that is expected to continue. Whitefish's award winning race organization has hosted three of the last four North American Cross Country Ski Championships. The Nordic Center was also the training site for the South Korean Olympic Cross Country Ski Team and the Norwegian Olympic Biathlon Team prior to Calgary's Olympic Winter Games. Truly an international area, The Big Mountain at Whitefish is easy to get to via air, rail or car. Fly Delta, United Express or Horizon Air into Glacier International Airport only 19 miles away. Take Amtrak direct to Whitefish from the east or west on the "Empire Builder" streamliners. Comfortable lodging for 1,500 and a wide variety of restaurants coupled with a complete village area that includes ski rentals and repairs, ski school, day care center, photography shop, grocery store, 4 lounges and a friendly staff make this a very special place. Inquire about tours into Glacier National Park, sleigh ride dinners, ice skating and all the fun of Whitefish. We would love to have you!

For More Information: Please call or write The Big Mountain, P.O. Box 1400, Whitefish, MT 59937, (406) 862-3511 or 1-800-858-5439 U. S. or 1-800-637-7547 Canada.

CCSAA

GLACIER COUNTRY

IZAAK WALTON INN GLACIER PARK TOURS

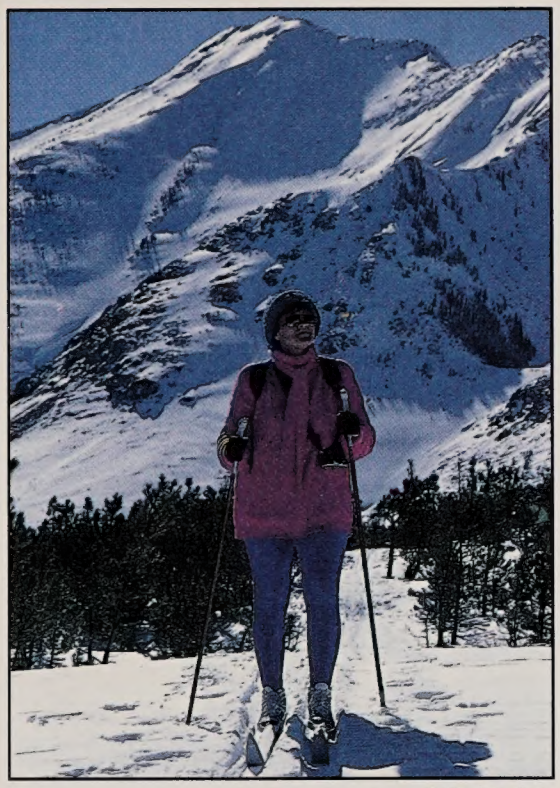
Cross Country Skier magazine called it the "coziest cross country ski area in the Rockies." Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Izaak Walton Inn offers some of the finest groomed track, skating, back country and telemark skiing found in the Northwest United States, with over 30 km of groomed trails. Trails twenty feet wide wind through beautiful Rocky Mountain scenery. Take a guided backcountry ski tour into Glacier National Park and marvel at nature's majestic and serene wonders.

An alpine lodge constructed in 1939 by the Great Northern Railroad to house winter snow removal crews, the Inn has maintained the great heritage of the glory days of the railroad. Memorabilia, authentic furniture and our great log fireplace remind every guest of the great train era's mystique.

Facilities: Relax in our Great Northern room with in-room wash basin or an Empire Builder accommodation with private bath. The Dining Car Restaurant serves a wide variety of menu favorites, plus daily specials. Laundry facilities, lounge, Finnish sauna and game room help make your stay more enjoyable.

Location: At Essex, just off Highway 2, halfway between East and West Glacier in northwestern Montana. Fly Delta, Alaska or Northwest to Kalispell and rent a car for a scenic drive to Essex. Or ride Amtrak right to our door.

Season: Late November through April 15. Glacier National Park back country tours from December 1 to April 15. Our spring skiing is excellent, as snowfall usually lasts into the middle of May.



K. Brehm photo

Trails: Over 30 km of mechanically-groomed trails include tracks for traditional skiing and skating. Hundreds of kilometers of backcountry trails to test all skill levels.

Glacier Park Tours: Revel in a Glacier National Park that few visitors ever see—draped in winter white, with serene snow fields. Our PSIA-certified guides create a trip just for you and your group, offering instructions and friendly tips to make the trip easier and more enjoyable. Your guide will also describe the wildlife you see and interpret the area's geologic formations. The cost of a one day trip is $60-$80 per person, based on group size. Private or semi-private trips are $100-$150. Price includes guide service, lunch and transportation. Ski equipment rental upon request.

Day Skier Services: A day-trail pass allows you to ski our entire trail system. Equipment rental packages available.

Vacation Packages: Stay 7 nights for only $440 in our Great Northern Room or $505 in our Empire Builder accommodations (based on double occupancy). Price includes lodging for six nights, 21 meals, one guided ski tour in Glacier National Park and daily trail passes. Call or write for shorter stay package rates.

Events: Kick Out the Kinks Nordic ski race, December 8. 5K and 10K races. USSA sanctioned event.

For Reservations: Reservations are recommended. When calling, please indicate if you are interested in a Glacier Park tour as space is limited.

For More Information: Write Izaak Walton Inn, P.O. Box 653-M, Essex, MT 59916 or call (406) 888-5700 for brochure.

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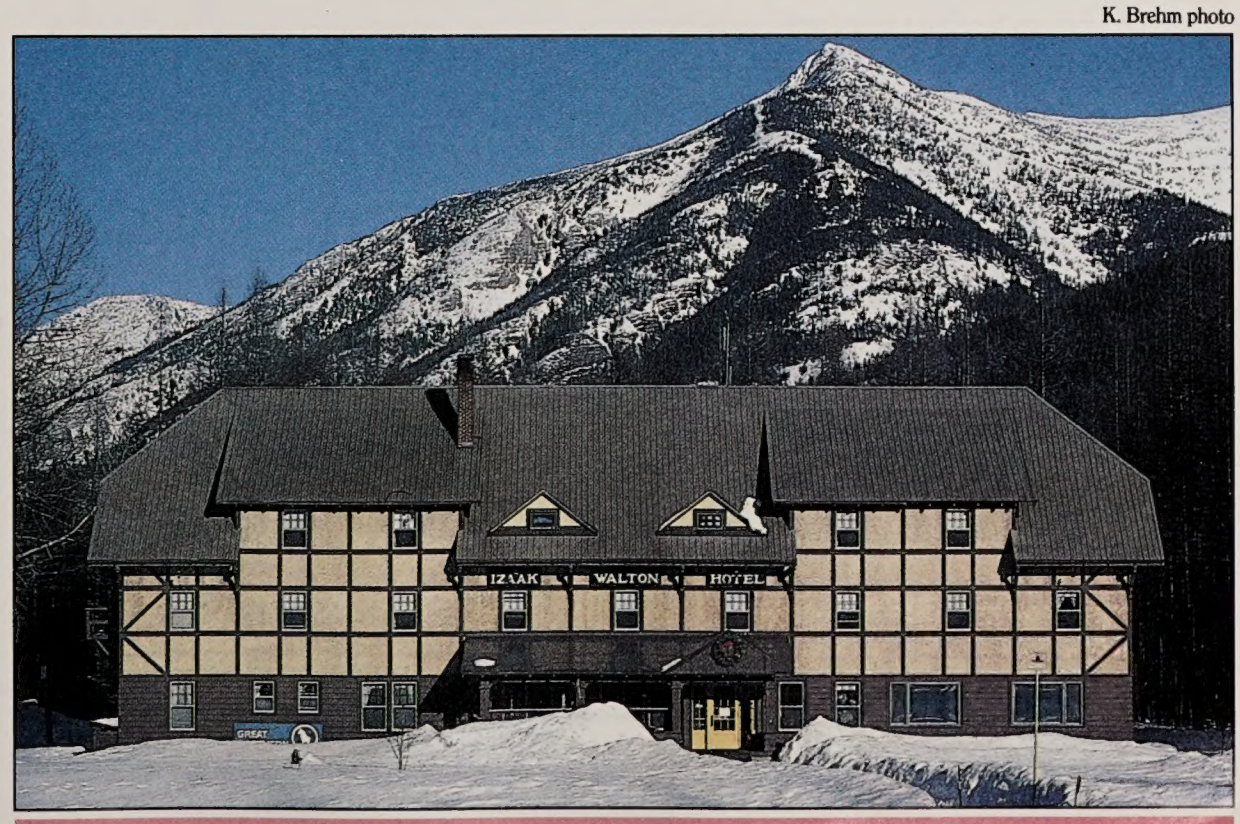
K. Brehm photo



GLACIER COUNTRY

HARGRAVE CATTLE & GUEST RANCH

Have it all! Pristine, secluded cross country skiing on the ranch and next day quality downhill resort skiing. The ranch offers the serenity of isolated flat meadows, timber-lined lanes and rolling pastures—both groomed and untouched. Or, after a hearty breakfast, head for Whitefish's exciting Big Mountain 1½ hours away. Then retreat back to your gracious home and cabin accommodations with sauna and gourmet meals waiting. Personalized service for 10 guests. Resident wildlife, cowboys, cattle and horses make this a special hideaway. Live the legend! Choose both an exhilarating resort and the peace and serenity of this historic mountain valley ranch.

For More Information: Write Hargrave Cattle & Guest Ranch, Thompson River Valley, Marion, MT 59925 or phone (406) 858-2284 or 1-800-933-0696 (outside Montana).

NIGHTINGALE NORDIC INCORPORATED

Owned and operated by the Rossignol family, Nightingale Nordic is located 16 miles west of Lolo on U.S. Highway 12 West. Just 25 minutes from Missoula, Nightingale Nordic offers 17 km of groomed skating and traditional tracks on trails constructed solely for cross country skiing. A rustic cabin provides a warm shelter to eat lunch, watch a ski video or just relax by the fire. The cabin also houses a ski-school rental shop, ski shop and food concession. Daily trail passes range from $5 adult to $3 for children with those under 6 skiing free and special rates for students and seniors. Group rates and lesson packages are also available.

For More Information and Free Brochure: Write Nightingale Nordic, Inc., P.O. Box 369, Graves Creek Road, Lolo, MT 59847 or phone (406) 273-2415 or (406) 273-0655.

THERRIAULT PASS GUEST HOUSE

Located near the Canadian border. Ski touring and ski mountaineering. Experience backcountry solitude in a forested mountain setting. Come and ski with a fun ski guide—complimentary hot drinks and snacks will be served on the trail. Ski instruction available as well. Beginners will enjoy the light touring just outside the Guest House door. Intermediates and experts will find challenging terrain. Share trails with a moose. Be our only guests and stay in your own unique and fully furnished house. Scenic views, secluded and special. Give us a try!

For More Information: Write Therriault Pass Guest House, 2400 Therriault Pass Road, Eureka, MT 59917 or phone (406) 889-3242.

CCSAA

B. Swanson photo

HIDDEN PLACES, PUBLIC TREASURES

Tucked away in the mountains of western and central Montana are some hidden delights for cross country skiers. There are small lodges whose nearest neighbors are trumpeter swans, elk and moose. Choose their groomed trails or ski fresh powder on endless acres of national forest that begin at their back door. And there are some fine public trail systems that will take you to the top of the Continental Divide, to backcountry lakes, even to ghost towns.

At Garnet ghost town, east of Missoula in the Garnet Range, the Bureau of Land Management maintains an extensive trail system that combines the history of Montana's gold mining era with spectacular views of the Blackfoot Valley, the Mission Mountains, the Bob Marshall wilderness and the Pintler Range. Cabin rentals in town and elsewhere in the Garnet Range make this a unique winter experience. Old mining digs and magnificent scenery are also combined in the Pioneer Mountains of southwestern Montana where skiers enjoy the views from Grasshopper Ridge and Elkhorn Loop on the Beaverhead National Forest.

Two of Montana's most popular trail systems are the Lewis and Clark National Forest's Silver Crest trail system south of Great Falls in the Little Belt Mountains and the Helena National Forest's MacDonald Pass trail system just minutes from the capital city of Helena. And for skiers who like to combine their touring with a few downhill runs or even some ice fishing, the Deerlodge National Forest maintains trails in the popular Georgetown Lake area next door to Discovery Basin ski area in southwestern Montana.

There are many more nordic ski trails on Montana's national forests. Location and difficulty of 90 trails are described in the Ski Touring Trails Directory, available at the U.S. Forest Service addresses listed on this page.

For maps & information about skiing and cabin rentals on these public lands write: Garnet Preservation Association, Cabin Rental Program, 800 Chestnut Street, Missoula, MT 59801 or phone John Fletcher (406) 721-4269; Garnet Resource Area, Bureau of Land Management, Box 3388, Butte, MT 59702, (406) 494-5059 or 3255 Fort Missoula Road, Missoula, MT 59801, (406) 329-3914; Beaverhead National Forest, 610 N. Montana St., Dillon, MT 59725, (406) 683-3973; Deerlodge National Forest, P.O. Box 400, Butte, MT 59703, (406) 496-3400; Helena National Forest, Federal Bldg., Room 334, 301 S. Park, Drawer 10014, Helena, MT 59626, (406) 449-5201; U.S. Forest Service, Northern Region, P.O. Box 7669, Missoula, MT 59807, (406) 329-3511.

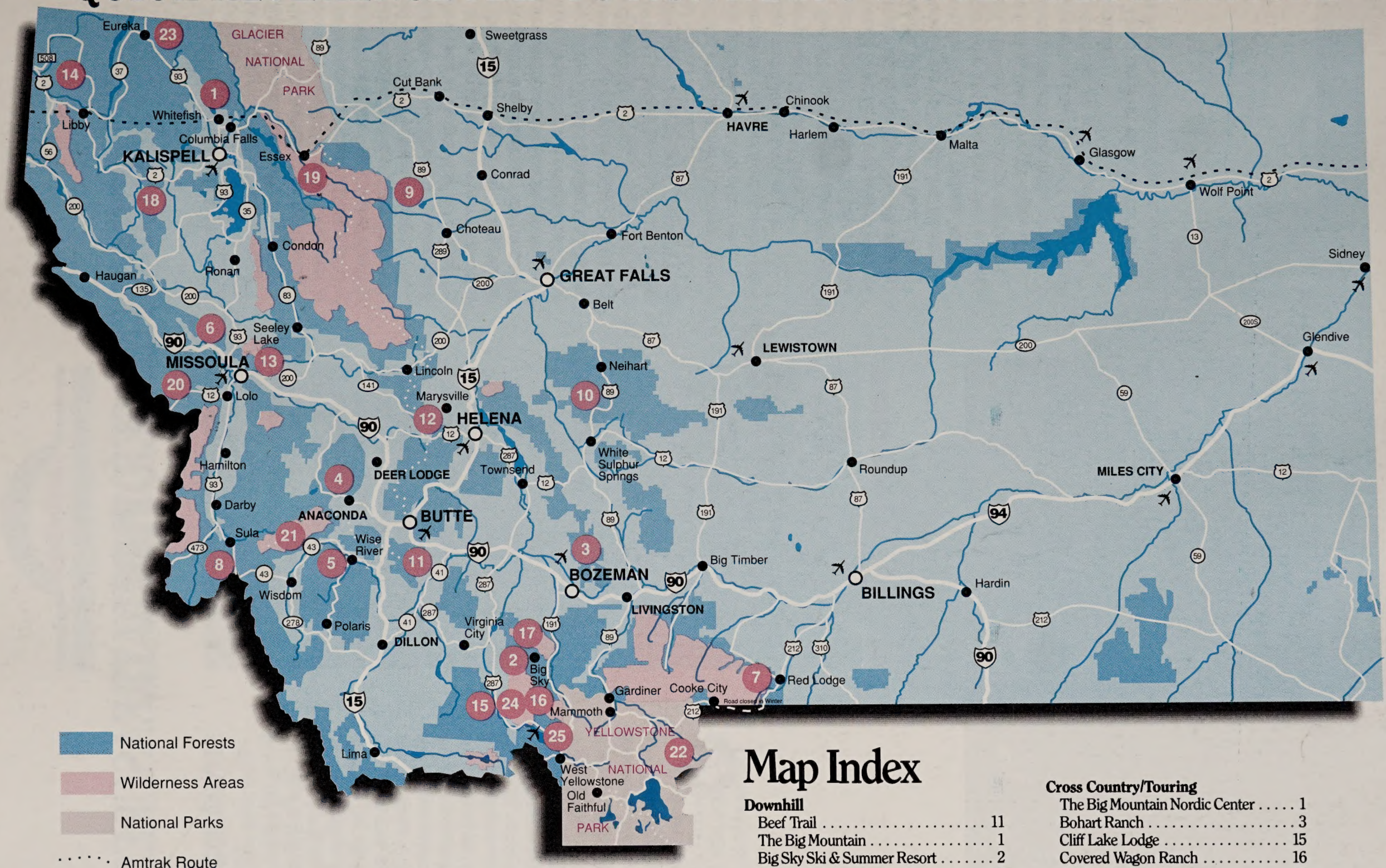
SUNDANCE LODGE

Four miles west of Highway 274 between Wise River and Wisdom, off Highway 43. Fly Delta or Northwest Airlink to Butte and rent a car or request airport pickup. Ski from Thanksgiving through March in the adjacent Beaverhead National Forest and on 250 acres at the ranch. Rooms in the lodge are $40 per day for two; cabins are $46 to $56 per day. Approximately 25 km of ski trails are groomed and tracked daily. Additional trails are groomed occasionally. No fee for registered guests. Dining room, bar, spa and ski rentals. Member: Montana Cross Country Ski Areas Association.

For More Information: Write Sundance Lodge, Wise River, MT 59762 or phone (406) 689-3611.

R. Hamilton Smith photo

QUICK REFERENCE MAP TO MONTANA'S WINTER DESTINATIONS



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